

FORGIVING THE IGNORANT

They say that ignorance is bliss. But there can be no joy in the ignorance of sin. Paul told the Athenians that *“truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17.30). Ignorance of sin will never be an acceptable excuse. On the day of Judgment, no one will be given a pass because “I didn’t know.”

In this world, there are some who are outright rebellious. They know the expectations of God and choose to ignore the will of God for their lives (Prov. 28.9; Zech. 7.11,12). However, many live their lives outside of the boundaries of God’s will simply because they do not know. It may be that they have been mistaught (Matt. 23.15). It may be that they have never come to realize the seriousness of their condition (Eph. 4.18,19)

Jesus always had a heart of compassion for the ignorant. He saw people who were aimless and *“was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered”* (Matt. 9.36). In Hebrews 5, Jesus is likened to the priests of Old Testament times. In verse 2, those priests are described as having *“compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray”* (Heb. 5.2). Perhaps the greatest example of His compassion for the ignorant was while He was dying on the cross. Instead of condemning His enemies who tortured and killed Him, He prayed to God, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23.34).

What about you? Do you have compassion on the ignorant? It is easy to look down your nose at the world with a heart of self-righteousness. Isn’t that what the Pharisees did (Luke 18.11)? But following the example of Jesus, we should seek to help those who are in darkness see and come to the light (2 Cor. 4.4). After all, you were also once in darkness, but someone had compassion to share with you the gospel. And even today, we make mistakes out of ignorance that moves us to pray as David did, *“cleanse me from secret faults”* (Ps. 19.12). CLP

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
(702) 642-3141

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

APRIL 6, 2025

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. † North Las Vegas, NV † 89030

Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittle@gmail.com

www.appliedchristiansstudies.com

Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

Facebook: Chris Pruitt

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

April 6, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

Why Did They Write?

Paul wrote that the scriptures originate from God and are useful and able to make the one who reads and applies them perfect (2 Tim. 3.16,17). Did you realize that each writer had a specific purpose in mind when writing their epistles?

Luke wrote in order to provide *“an orderly account”* of the things that took place in the life of Christ (Luke 1.1-4). Paul wrote the book of Ephesians *“so that when you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3.4). John wrote his first epistle for a variety of reasons. He wrote about our fellowship with God in order to produce joy (1 John 1.4). He wrote *“so that you may not sin”* (1 John 2.1). He wrote to warn us about false teachers (1 John 2.21-26). He wrote so *“that you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5.13). The apostle Peter wrote both of his epistles with two thoughts in mind. **2 PETER 3.1:** *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder)”* He wrote to stir up our minds and to give us a reminder (2 Pet. 1.12).

The scriptures can make you perfect. Only by applying the word of God can we be *“fruitful in every good work”* (Col. 1.10). Therefore, be careful to *“give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”* (Heb. 2.1). CLP

When I am Discouraged

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Even the strongest and most faithful children of God feel discouraged. (Job 3.11; 1 Kings 19.4; Matt. 26.38)
2. Timothy was another faithful child of God who struggled with feelings of discouragement (Phil. 2.19-22; 2 Tim. 1.3)
3. In 2 Timothy 1, the apostle Paul has some things to say that might help us when we feel discouraged.

I. THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. Discouragement will damage you emotionally.
 1. **2 Timothy 1.4:** “*being mindful of your tears.*”
 2. Tears (dakryon): Crying on the inside. (John 11.33,35)
- B. Discouragement will damage you spiritually.
 1. **2 Timothy 1.5,6:** “*stir up the gift of God*”
 2. Stir up (anazopyreo): Literally, bring the fire back to life.
 3. Gift of God. Timothy was given a miraculous spiritual gift. (Acts 8.18; 1 Cor. 12.11; 1 Tim. 4.14)
 4. Why did Timothy lose his passion? (2 Tim. 3.12)
- C. Discouragement will damage you socially.
 1. **2 Timothy 1.7:** “*God has not given us a spirit of fear.*”
 2. Fear (deilia): Cowardice, timidity. (cf. Rev. 21.8)

II. THE CURE FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. It is essential that we know that we are in this together.
 1. **2 Timothy 1.8:** “*Therefore...share with me in the sufferings for the gospel*”
 2. Share with me (synkakopatheo): Literally, suffer bad together. Let's get through this together.
 3. How much had Paul gone through? (2 Cor. 11.23-27)
 4. Remember that you are not alone. (1 Pet. 5.9)
- B. Three things we can learn from Paul's example.
 1. Paul rested on the power of God. (1 Tim. 1.8)
 2. Paul trusted in the grace of God. (1 Tim. 1.9)
 3. Paul hoped for the life to come. (1 Tim. 1.10)

CONCLUSION: Jesus also serves as an example of One who suffered, but He did so for you. (Heb. 12.2).

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Is there any more familiar Psalm in all of the Bible? Psalm 23 It begins with the words, “*The Lord is my Shepherd.*” When you break down those words, the first thing you read about is the Lord. This is the very name of God (Ex. 6.3) and captures the true essence and identity. He is the One who was, is, and always will be (Rev. 4.8). This psalm tells me that the One who brought all things into existence is my Shepherd.

The best way to characterize a shepherd is by the word “caring.” He protects them, guides them, leads them to the resources they need, and sometimes even chastises them. And that is because the shepherd cares for his flock. Jesus described Himself as the good shepherd who “gives His life for His sheep.” In contrast, “*the hireling...sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees*” The difference between the hireling and the shepherd cares for the sheep while the hireling cares only about himself. When you take that thought back to Psalm 23, the psalmist begins the psalm by calling our attention to the Creator of the heavens and earth is like a shepherd who cares for His people. Is there any more comforting Psalm in all of the Bible?

As the Shepherd of His sheep, the psalm gives us three ways that the Lord cares for His people. First, with the Lord, we can enjoy contentment. After the beginning words of the psalm, it goes on to say, “*I shall not want.*” The Lord is the One who takes us to “*green pastures*” and “*still waters*” (Ps. 23.2). When I am tired and weary, the Shepherd of my soul restores me (Ps. 23.3). If you are a child of God, you will never want for anything. He provides every physical, emotional, and spiritual need.

Second, we can enjoy courage. The psalmist continues his thoughts in verse 4: “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me.*” When the Lord is with us, there is no danger that you and I will ever face that will cause us to fear. Let the enemies do their worst. Let the storms rage. We can live in confidence, because our Shepherd is with us.

Third, we can enjoy confidence. In the last line of the psalm, David expressed his confidence by writing, “*I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*” If you have the Lord as your Shepherd, you can know that you are saved and will be with Him forever (1 John 5.13).