

## The Importance of Knowledge

In Hosea 4:6, God said, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children* (NASV).

The ramification of this condition is eternally destructive. The sins of Israel were well stated, saying *there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of God in the land. There is nought but swearing and breaking faith, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery; they break out, and blood toucheth blood* (ASV).

The moral compass of Israel was without bearing. Their morality and rules of behavior were without restraint. Their natural feeling that makes people know right and wrong, and how they should behave was cast off. The people would say, *let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof*, i.e., they refused to have any, prophet or priest, convict them of their error. They were even *like those who contend with the priest*, an action condemned by law: *The man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the Lord your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel* (Deut. 17:12). And by rejecting the law of God they were as those of whom Solomon said, *Where there is no vision* (the public ministering of the word and ordinances, and want of persons to administer them, Gill), *the people cast off restraint; But he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

These characteristics are prominent in the society in which we live: *there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of God in the land.* Yet, in so doing, they will also reject the implications of the words of the Lord, saying, *Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father how is in heaven* (Mt. 7:21). ret