

## Danger of Ignorance (i.e., Lack of Knowledge)

When the apostle Paul penned the epistle to the Corinthians he was very forthright in his admonitions, even as he said, “I would not, brethren, have you ignorant.” The apostle Paul understood the dangers of ignorance, as it was recorded by Hosea, saying, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (4:6), and as a result the words of Isaiah teem with meaning, when he said, “Therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude are parched with thirst. Therefore Sheol hath enlarged its desire, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth among them, descend into it” (Isaiah 5:14).

The apostles were keen on the dangers that faced Christians in the first century and by extension the dangers that face Christians today. Paul told the Corinthians, “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted (10:6)... Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (10:12). Peter also warned, “But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2). As Peter described these false teachers, he identified the same dire condition as was set forth by Hosea and Isaiah, i.e., “for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage” (2:19).

### Part Two

As much as our surroundings appear to change, man’s spiritual needs are as they have always been and as such Peter’s remedy in his time is applicable to our own: The apostle had revealed the assurance of judgment, saying, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in *all* holy living and

godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Thus, the need for warning: “Ye therefore, beloved, knowing [these things] beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:17-18).

### Part Three

In writing to those of Thessalonica the apostle Paul spoke concerning the mystery of lawlessness and ultimately revealed the cause of those who perish, saying, “with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

Similar to what Paul said to those of Rome: “Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16). ret