



“My People are Destroyed for lack of Knowledge”

- what you do not know can hurt you.-

Hosea 4:6 - *But My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

What we must know about Hosea:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

I. Introduction

God accused the religious leaders of keeping the people from knowing him. They were supposed to be spiritual leaders, but they had become leaders in wrongdoing. The people may have said to one another, “It must be OK if the priests do it.” **Spiritual leadership is a heavy responsibility.** Whether you teach a church school class, hold a church office, or lead a Bible study, don’t take your leadership responsibilities lightly. Be a leader who leads others to God.

The priests had not been teaching the people about God and his law so the people were being "destroyed. **Ezekiel 44:23** - *They shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the common, and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean; Malachi 2:7* - *the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.* Moreover, God removed the priests from their service because they themselves had rejected the knowledge of God and his law.

The closing lines announce, in poetic format, that since they had "ignored" the law, God would "ignore" their descendants. [knowledge] Knowledge of God and His ways.

Either priests or people, there is one thing the Lord wants to learn: **to understand that what you do not know can hurt you, and there is a profit from accepting the knowledge of God and recognizing His way.**

II. Acquiring Knowledge

God wants us to get the knowledge:

- (1) **Conviction - "knowledge of sin"** - *Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.* Romans 7: 7-10 says that What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! **Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.** For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. *Matthew 5: 17 - "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill.*
- (2) **Salvation - "Knowledge of God the Son"** - *2 Peter 1:2-3 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Verse 8 says - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* God himself has acted in his infinite power to accomplish salvation, something only he could accomplish and what human ability could not accomplish. He has called us to his own glory and excellence. **Salvation consists of three steps: effectual calling, conversion, and regeneration.**
 - Through the Holy Spirit, God calls the unbelievers to salvation.
 - The human response to that call involves turning from sin to faith in Christ. Faith also includes beliefs.

- God responds by regenerating the person to new life in Christ. We can only stand in awe of God's work of saving us and regenerating us as spiritual beings.

- (3) **Invitation - “knowledge of the truth”** - *1 timothy 2:4 God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* **Evangelistic prayer for all people is rooted in the fact that God desires all people to be saved.** It appears that Paul is countering an exclusivist tendency in the false teachers or at least their downplaying of the importance of evangelizing the Gentiles (along with their emphasis on the Jewish law).
- (4) **Communion - knowledge of His will** - *Colossians 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.* Knowledge and wisdom were offered by the false teachers in Colossae
- (5) **Growth - Increasing in the knowledge of God** - *Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.* The false teachers presumably claimed access to the mysteries of God's truth, but **Paul insists that Christ is God's mystery, and all understanding is to be found in him.**
- (6) **Every Good - Acknowledging of every good thing** - *Philemon 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.* in supporting the cause of the gospel (Phil. 1:5). Paul is laying the groundwork for his appeal to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Philemon's sharing will result in his own deeper knowledge of every good thing in Christ, that is, a deeper awareness and experience of the blessings that Christ has for him.

(7) **Christ - Knowledge of the Son of God** - *Ephesians 1:17- 23 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him*, To know Christ is to get your eyes of your heart to be open to :

- We may know the **hope** to which he has called us is,
- What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
- And what is the immeasurable greatness of **his power toward us** who believe, according to the working of his great might, that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead
- To know that God made Jesus sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
- To know that God has put **all things under the feet of Jesus**, and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

III. Prayer

- Pray against the spirit of ignorance (Law Despised)
- Pray against the spirit of forgetfulness
- Pray against the spirit of dispassion (lack of strong emotion, feelings)