

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Hosea 4:6; 8:12.**

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.... [8:12] Though I wrote for him ten thousand *precepts* of My law, They are regarded as a strange thing.

- B. Hosea condemns the Israelites of his day for their lack of knowledge of the Law of Moses. He says they shall be destroyed for their ignorance.
- C. Copies of the Law were plentiful, but they were ignored and the teachings were regarded as something strange, alien and invalid.
- D. Xians must know what the word of God says. The words of X will judge us on the last day (Jn. 12:48). "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
- E. This morning I want to talk about some hindrances to Bible study.

II. HINDRANCE #1: **FEAR.**

- A. Some may be afraid of the added responsibilities that come from additional knowledge of God's will.
- B. But remember, a Xian is responsible for knowing what he is responsible for. That's not double talk! It is your responsibility to know what the Bible says. What you don't know can hurt you (2Th. 1:7-9). and *to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, [8] dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9] And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*
- C. But we should not fear Bible study because:
 - 1. God will never ask more that what we are able to do (1Pet. 4:11).
Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - 2. God's commands are not burdensome (1Jn. 5:3).
For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
 - 3. God will reveal His will to you as you mature (Phil. 3:15).
Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;
- D. Don't be afraid of what can help you--Bible study.

III. HINDRANCE #2: **LAZINESS.**

- A. Laziness is a terrible sin, no matter in what context you apply it (Mt. 25:26; Ti. 1:12).
(Mt 25:26) "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no *seed*.
(Ti 1:12) One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
- B. It is so easy to allow the Bible class teacher and/or preacher to do your study for you--but this is wrong. Unless you study it, for yourself you will not be able to rightly divide the word (2Tim. 2:15).
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
- C. The study of any matter is hard work--Solomon said so (Eccl. 12:12).
But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.
- D. It takes no effort at all to watch TV. It does your thinking for you, and you can just sit there and vegetate. Laziness = ignorance.
- E. Remember, mental fatigue sets in quicker than physical fatigue.

- F. The Xian life should be one of hard work and toil. Make some of that toil Bible study (1Cor. 15:58).
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

IV. HINDRANCE #3: CONTENTMENT.

- A. Contentment can be a “first cousin” to laziness.
- B. Paul told us to be content with our material possessions. Food and covering should be the end of our contentment (1Tim. 6:8).
And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
- C. But too often we are content with our Bible study/knowledge and NOT content with our material possessions. We have it backwards!!
- D. Xianity should be (is) a process of continual growth. We are to be continually adding to our faith (2Pet. 1:5; 3:18).
(2Pet 1:5) Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;
(2Pet 3:18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- E. Peter also wrote of “true knowledge” in the hopes his readers would be able to call these things to mind (2Pet. 1:2,3,8,15).
(2Pet 1:2-3) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; [3] seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
(2Pet 1:8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(2Pet 1:15) And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things to mind.
- F. The Hebrew writer was not happy that the brethren had remained immature in their knowledge of the Bible (Heb. 5:11-14).
Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. [12] For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. [13] For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [14] But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

V. HINDRANCE #4: POOR TIME MANAGEMENT.

- A. In 1985, a poll was taken that revealed:
1. Less than half of those polled could name 5 of the Ten Commandments.
 2. Only half who attended worship could name the gospels.
 3. Less than half knew who delivered the Sermon on the Mount.
 4. Only about one in eight teenagers read the Bible daily.
 5. A third could not remember when they had last read the Bible.
- B. A fairly rapid reader can read the gospel of Luke (the longest book in the NT) in about 90 minutes.
- C. NOW THINK ABOUT THAT!! How much time do, we spend at the movies, watching TV, at concerts, etc? We do all of that and still say we don't have time for Bible study... how can that be? We choose how we use our time. Too many of us do not choose to make time for Bible study.
- D. Another study revealed that a person can:
1. Read the NT in one month in only 20 min/day.
 2. Read the OT in 6 months in only 10 min/day.
 3. Read the OT twice/yr and the NT 12/yr with 30 min/day.
- E. You can't find 20 minutes each day to read your Bible, I believe you are TOO busy!

VI. HINDRANCE #5: AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

- A. Two excuses I've heard far too many times are:

- A. Two excuses I've heard far too many times are:
 - 1. "You can't teach an old dog, new tricks."
 - 2. "I've been out of school so long I've forgotten how to learn."
- B. If you can read a newspaper and gain knowledge from it, you can read the NT and learn God's will.
- C. God has not given us a book so difficult that only the extremely intelligent can understand it.
- D. The Greek of the NT was written in the "kionos" (common) Greek language of the people. A person with a 5th grade education can read and understand the Bible well enough to go to heaven.
- E. You may not be able to remember and apply the Scriptures as fast as others, but you can read and learn what, God wants you to become.

VII. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Destroyed by a lack of knowledge. The excuses are:
 - 1. Fear.
 - 2. Laziness.
 - 3. Contentment.
 - 4. Poor time management.
 - 5. An inferiority complex.
- B. The word is available and there is no reason for not knowing it.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.