

Compassion On The Ignorant

I. Introduction:

A. At the onset of this lesson, let me be clear in saying that I am not suggesting that ignorance is any excuse or license for sin (**Acts 17:16-31**).

1. When ignorance leads to sin, repentance and conversion must take place to correct that sin with God (**Acts 3:11-26**).
2. Under the law of Christ (cf. **Galatians 6:2**); sin that is not repented of ultimately brings about damnation (**Romans 6:23** and **Revelation 21:8**).

B. There has long been a difference between sins of ignorance and those that sin presumptuously (**Numbers 15:29-31**).

1. A rebellious person is evil (**Proverbs 17:11**).
2. Such a person was dealt with swiftly under the Old Law (**Joshua 1:18**).
3. If that person does not repent (**Luke 13:1-5** and **Luke 17:1-4**) such a one is cast out from among the saints under Christ' law (**II Thessalonians 3:6** and **Titus 3:9-11**).
4. Yet, when someone is ignorant [not willfully], we will find that the Lord is compassionate towards that person! Let's study that.

II. Body: **Hebrews 4:14-5:10**

A. Jesus is our High Priest under His New Covenant (**Hebrews 9:11-17**).

1. His position as our High Priest is a source of comfort to us whom labor to enter into eternal life (**Hebrews 6:13-18**).
2. He intercedes for us with our Father (**Romans 8:34**).

B. The word translated "compassion" in **Hebrews 5:2** appears only in that one N.T. Scripture. Part of the definition of that term reads: "of one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently" (Strong's # 3356). It is this we see in Christ (**Matthew 9:35-38**).

1. We might do well to think of this word "compassion" as "forbearance" (**Romans 3:24-25**) with all that comes with the subject (i.e. **Romans 2:1-4**).
2. His forbearance comes with understanding, seeing as how He lived in the flesh too (**Hebrews 2:9-18**).
3. We see the Lord's compassion on the ignorant in how He dealt with Saul [Paul] (**Acts 7:51-8:3**, **Acts 9:1-20**, and **I Timothy 1:12-16**).

C. We have to understand compassion in how we intreat each other when sin is involved (**Jude 1:21-23**).

1. Consider how Apollos was dealt with and why (**Acts 18:24-28**).
2. Compare that to Peter being dealt with and why (**Galatians 2:11-17**).
3. Always keeping in mind the goal (**James 5:19-20**; cf. **II Peter 3:9**).
4. All of this ties together (**Colossians 3:12-13**).

D. Having said all of that, we must be sure not to think that our understanding High Priest will excuse sin. As much as He knows how difficult life in this world can be, He also knows you can live this life without fault (**Hebrews 7:19-28**).

1. His sacrifice cleansed us (**Revelation 1:5**).
2. It's on us to stay clean (**I Thessalonians 4:7** and **I Timothy 5:22**).

III. Conclusion: Many of us [faithful saints here] have sinned in our pasts due to ignorance. We have gained forgiveness through the compassion of our Lord. Now, let's continue forward in knowledge (**I Corinthians 15:34**) as not to err and frustrate the grace of our Lord (**Galatians 2:18-21**).