

PROFILING THOSE IGNORANT OF THE GOSPEL

1. Text: Acts 13:26-30
2. Why is there so much ignorance of Scripture in the world? The truth is there are three types of people who evidence biblical ignorance. Their ignorance normally has nothing to do with intelligence.
3. Who are they?

I. Worldly People Who Never Study The Scriptures

1. Millions of secular-minded people never open a Bible.
2. Sometimes they are just “heathen.” (Romans 1:28) Sometimes they are “too smart.”
3. Sometimes they have absolutely no background for study. (I Corinthians 2:14)
4. Sometimes they are “turned off” by a world in religious confusion.
5. The devil is at work. See Luke 8:12 “The devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts.”
6. Often pontificate (speak with pompous authority) on issues he is totally ignorant of.
7. Approach: kindness, helpfulness, longsuffering

II. Religious People Who Never Study The Scriptures

1. Millions of religious people claiming allegiance to Christ never really spend much time with God’s word. Their preachers don’t preach from it; their Sunday schools don’t use it; they don’t read it in private. Comfortable trust of officials.
2. In this group fits the confident, traditional denominational member.
3. Usually live with assumptions for beliefs. For instance, on Easter, Christmas, eggs, creeds, denominationalism.
4. Key attitude: tolerance. “I have my tradition and you have yours.”
5. Reality: “Hazy holiness”
6. This may be the most difficult to reach.
7. Approach: gentle confrontation of assumptions

III. Religious People Who Really Do Study The Word

1. Can someone read and study the Word of God and yet not understand it? Absolutely, yes. Read:
2. Romans 10:2 of the Jews, Paul writes, “They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”
3. Text: Acts 13:27 “They did not know Him, nor even the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath.”
4. Matthew 22:29 “Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures.”
5. II Timothy 3:7 “Ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
6. Acts 8 and my friend: “I’ve never read that before.”
7. “Devotional reading.” Sentimentalism
8. MISS: Meaning, Implications, Significance, Selectivity.
9. “Open-minded” and “Good and honest hearts.”
10. Approach: Real, intense study

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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