

Back to Bible School - Hosea 4:6



Biblical Illiteracy

A Growing Problem in Our Nation

"Americans revere the Bible - but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates." - George Gallup and Jim Castelli

Biblical Illiteracy

National Statistics

- Fewer than half of all adults can name the four gospels
- Many professing Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples
- 60 percent of Americans can't name even five of the Ten Commandments
- 82 percent of Americans believe "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse
- 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife

Biblical Illiteracy

National Statistics

- A survey of graduating high school seniors revealed that over 50 percent thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife
- A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham
- Increasingly, America is biblically illiterate." - George Barna

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Individuals

- God's people have always been destroyed by lack of knowledge
- Hosea 4:1

Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel,
for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land.

There is no faithfulness or steadfast love,
and no knowledge of God in the land;

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Individuals

- God's people have always been destroyed by lack of knowledge
- Hosea 4:6

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.

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Individuals

- Where there is lack of God's Word, the people faint
- Amos 8:11-13

11 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God,
“when I will send a famine on the land—
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the Lord.

12 They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord,
but they shall not find it.

13 “In that day the lovely virgins and the young men
shall faint for thirst.

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Individuals

- Without a knowledge of God's Word, a person has:

- No real direction or guidance in life

- Psalms 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- Psalms 119:111

111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

- Psalms 119:165

165 Great peace have those who love your law;

nothing can make them stumble.

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Churches

- Churches languish for lack of teachers; teachers are few for lack of knowledge
- Hebrews 5:12

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food...

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Churches

- Churches are led astray by false teachers and false doctrine, for how can the ignorant know what is false?
- 2 Peter 2:1-3

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Communities

- Our standards of morality are skewed, where good is evil and evil is good
- Isaiah 5:20

20 Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

The Poison of Biblical Illiteracy

It's Effect on Communities

- Consider how the moral fabric of our nation and others in the world is becoming unraveled when "everyone does what is right in his own eyes"

- Judges 21:25

25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Daily Devotional Bible Reading in Private

- The truly blessed person feeds upon the Word of God daily
- Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree

planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Daily Devotional Bible Reading in Private

- The truly blessed person feeds upon the Word of God daily
- Psalms 119:97-98

97 Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Frequent In Depth Bible Study with Others

- The faithful Christian realizes the value of mutual edification
- Hebrews 3:12-14

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Frequent In Depth Bible Study with Others

- Churches often provide the opportunity for Christians to study together
- Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Parents Accepting Their God Given Responsibility

- God gave the responsibility of spiritual training to the parents
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7

6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Parents Accepting Their God Given Responsibility

- Ephesians 6:4

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Preachers Fulfilling Their Duty to the Word

- Preachers are to give heed to the Word, and to preach the Word
- 1 Timothy 4:16

16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The Antidote to Biblical Illiteracy

Preachers Fulfilling Their Duty to the Word

- Preachers are to give heed to the Word, and to preach the Word
- 2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.