Elder's Corner

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
(Hosea 4:6)

The verse above is one of the most frequently quoted verses from Hosea. It parallels a warning that King Solomon gave in **Prov. 29:18:**

> **Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.**

Hosea is writing around two hundred and fifty years after the united kingdom under Solomon split; Judah and Benjamin stayed with his son Rehoboam, and the ten northern tribes went with a man named Jeroboam. Something that Jeroboam did has to be at least partially responsible for the verses above from Hosea. **First Kings 12:31** says this about Jeroboam, **"He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi."** One writer comments, "Of course, these counterfeit priests knew neither the Lord nor His law. They were primarily interested in having an easy job that would provide them with food, clothing, and pleasure, especially opportunities to be with the shrine prostitutes."[1]

After the Babylonian captivity, the synagogue and rabbis associated with them were the main place for the **children** of Israel to go if they were seeking **knowledge**. But before that **the people** went to **the priests** at the tabernacle to acquire sound teaching and **knowledge.**[2] **Deuteronomy 33:10,** part of my reading this morning, makes that clear in Moses words to **the sons of Levi:**

> **They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Deut. 33:10**

And Malachi is even more clear:

> **"For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. (Mal 2.7).**

Because of the failure on the part of the false **priests** to teach **knowledge and the law from** their **mouth**, **the Lord** was forced to lament what was happening to His **people** in **Hosea 4:6**. They were being **destroyed for lack of knowledge!**

I couldn't help but bring that phrase, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,"** to today in the United States and even in our community. Who is responsible today for bringing **knowledge** of **the Lord Jesus Christ** and His gospel to the people of America, and even closer, to northeastern Wisconsin.? There was a time after His resurrection that **the Lord Jesus Christ** met with **eleven of His disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16).** He instructed them that they were to make **disciples** and then, **"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19, 20).** The Apostle Paul shared with the elders of the church at Ephesus what he felt was important to **teach** at New Testament churches, **"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).** Paul didn't just teach on his favorite doctrine or topic as so many teachers and preachers do today. A lot of interesting and entertaining messages can be given on David and Goliath, or Daniel in the lion's den, or Noah and the ark, but a lot of essential **knowledge** will be missing from those messages. That kind of **teaching** will result in Christians who are babes, feeding on **milk and not solid food** which will come about through expository **teaching (Heb. 5:12-14).** Believe it or not, music can play and important part in instilling **knowledge** about **Jesus Christ** and His gospel to those who need to hear it or be reminded of it. Paul advised the church at Colossae:

> **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16).**

The great old hymns of the faith are embedded with **knowledge** of our **Lord** and Savior **Jesus Christ** and the gospel. Unfortunately, in many churches today, the "worship leader" plays a more important role than the preacher. Unfortunately, because the songs that he or she leads dare not contain anything about the shed blood of **Jesus Christ.** Are God's **people** in the United States today being **destroyed for lack of knowledge** because of poor teaching and empty Christian music. Just some thoughts. Maranatha.

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[1] Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Amazed*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 24.

[2] Prophets too, were to instruct the people, they were also rebuked in Hosea 4:5.