

The Cross, The Blood and The Name of Jesus!

ESV Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ESV 2 Timothy 3:1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

I wonder how many believers understand just how dangerous the times are!

- How many understand how dangerous it is when people reject God?
- How dangerous it is when people stop honoring God?
- How dangerous it is when people stop thanking God?

What the world becomes when people are no longer grateful to God for life, health and their abilities.

Sin effects the mind, **how people think, imagine and create!**

Paul says the people **knew God** but decided to forget and reject God as God!

The Greek word **knew** means they have the correct working knowledge of God!

Think about what must take place in the minds of people who make that decision!

❖ **First, they decide to forget God, then go on to replace God.**

If a person can forget God and then move on to replace God—the All Powerful Creator of the universe.

What do you imagine they will eventually do to people who believe in God and worship Him?

Forgetting and replacing God means dismantling everything God says and everything God stands for!

When that happens there is no God, no devil, no right or wrong so there is no sin, no heaven or hell in minds of these people!

And if there are no consequences for actions—you can do whatever you want!

At that point everyone can make whatever decisions they want and that makes them God!

Do we realize how serious and dangerous this is?

❖ Forgetting The Cross of Christ removes the penalty and the punishment for sin!

The Cross removes the curse that sin brought into the world, without The Cross man lives under the curse and penalty of sin.

^{GWN} 1 Corinthians 1:18 The message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved.

The Cross provides the **power/ability** to be rescued from the powers of the world.

*Gal 6:14b...*By his cross my relationship to the world and its relationship to me have been crucified.

❖ Forgetting The Blood of Jesus keeps people under the power of sin.

*Heb 9:22b...*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

The Blood of Jesus **cleanses our conscience**, ignoring The Blood gives the devil the **power to mess with our minds!** We can't reject The Blood of Jesus!

^{GWN} Hebrews 9:14 The blood of Christ, who had no defect, does even more. Through the eternal Spirit he offered himself to God and cleansed our consciences from the useless things we had done. Now we can serve the living God.

The Blood of Jesus Christ **draws us close to God and makes us His family!**

^{GWN} Ephesians 2:13 But now through Christ Jesus you, who were once far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We know we're saved and a part of The Family of God because of The Blood!

❖ Forgetting The Name of Jesus has unthinkable consequences!

In The Name is the **nature, character & reputation** of Jesus! That's what *shem* (name) means in Hebrew.

^{KJV} Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth...!

^{KJV} John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall **ask in my name**, that will I do, that the Father may be

Its by and through The Name of Jesus we are able to do the works that Jesus did!

It's by The Name of Jesus our prayers are heard and answered!

Take away The Name and you stop the works!

^{ESV} Revelation 3:8 "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Jesus said to the end time church of Philadelphia... *"I know you don't have much power (political or economic)."*

"But one thing you do have that is of great power "you have not denied my name!"

Because you have not denied my Name I have set before an open door no man can shut!

That means there will be opposition, but it will not close the door!

When we remember The Cross, The Blood and The Name of Jesus Christ we don't need a lot of help from many people—God will open doors for us!