

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

A Teaching Bulletin to Inform & Edify God's Family at Northside

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"What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You – Part 2"

Last week, we discuss gossiping & lying. This article addresses bad news & thoughts of the heart.

Bad News (Luke 24:17-24)

Bad news is something people do not want to know. This story is a dialogue between Jesus & two disciples after His resurrection. These two men did not recognize Jesus at the time while He was walking with them. Jesus noticed these two men were sad. Why were they sad? They were sad because they believed Jesus to be the Redeemer of Israel, but He was crucified, He died, & was buried, & then to top it all off, it appeared His body was stolen from the grave. Talking about bad news! These men might have never been sad if they never knew Jesus was crucified. These men might have never been disappointed if they never knew Jesus died & was buried. These men probably would have been okay had they never heard the news about Jesus' body being missing from the grave. So, what they did not know could not have hurt them. Many believe the same philosophy in which it is said, "no news is good news" or "if it is bad news, then I do not want to hear it." Hence, we never deal with objective reality or what really is. Therefore, we inculcate the doctrine of "what I don't know can't hurt me." Bad news is not "bad news" because somebody discovers it. Bad news is "bad news" because it is not "good news" & it exists.

Knowing Another Man's Heart (1 Samuel 16:7 & Psalms 44:21)

When it comes to discovering what is in another man's heart, we choose to opt away from this privilege or ignore the obvious signs thereof. The Bible talks about the heart. As a result of what man does on the outside, we have an indication of what he is on the inside. We are not like God, in which we can look at the heart. We are only privy to the works, deeds, actions, & attitudes of the individual. Knowing this information, individuals will ignore a person's actions & always give them the benefit of the doubt because they do not want to believe a person could stoop so low or even have a

heart, which is only comprised of evil & sin. So, many individuals manifest in their own lives the cliché, "what I don't know can't hurt me." It is my belief this cliché was designed to avoid pain rather than to promote peace. However, when an effort is made to remain oblivious or apathetic to our surroundings, then peace is never the product, but rather ignorance & false security disguised as resolution. People are quick to yell, "Don't judge me!" Nevertheless, as Christians, we are called to judge righteously (**John 7:24**) & fulfill our duty has "fruit inspectors" (**Matthew 7:15-20**).

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