

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday July 20, 2022 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



DON'T EAT WHAT THE WORLD IS SERVING UP *2 Kings 4:38-41*

³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets." ³⁹ So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were. ⁴⁰ Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot. -2 Kings 4:38-41 (NKJV)



We have been in our study on the life of Elisha for a while now, and we have been reminding ourselves each week of some of the foundational information about Elisha and his call to the ministry that may help us frame his life and how/why God used him. There are characteristics of Elisha's life that have already begun to emerge in our study that may help us to understand who he is and why God used him, and in return will make our life useful in our day. These provide some background information on Elisha using his name as an acrostic.

6 Characteristics of Elisha that Should Characterize Your Life as a Believer:

E – Eager to follow God: Remember the name Elisha means “God is salvation,” perhaps a reflection of own salvation but also a reminder the message of salvation he was to share with his people... something he was eager to do. When you study Elisha's life you find one who was willing and even eager to follow God and His call on his life.

L – Living obedience: Remember that Elisha was the son of a farmer named Shaphat, and was himself a farmer prior to his calls to the ministry. He was living a life that honored his family/parents and helped to support the family when God found Him. Already living an obedience life, when God called Him He followed. He became an obedient disciple and understudy for the Prophet Elijah and his powerful prophetic ministry. He faithfully and obediently served Elijah until Elijah's ascension to heaven in a whirlwind. And when the mantle of Elijah fell to Elisha, he picked it up and followed God in obedience for the rest of his life. And remember Elisha's call to ministry was from God not man, and was issued through the Prophet Elijah (v.19). An important note here is that Elijah didn't call Elisha, God did. Elijah, throughout his ministry was simply called to be the messenger of God, and he did so obediently. and no less here was Elijah the messenger to Elisha of God's call on his life. Remember that “obedience” is doing exactly what God tell you do, when He tells you to do it, with the right heart attitude. That is what we find in Elisha and what should be reflected in our life as believers.

I – Invested fully in God's call on his life: When God called Elisha he surrendered his life fully to God's call, no turning back (v.20-21). Listen to it again in our passage in verses 20-21, “²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” ²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.”

S – Shining the truth of God on a corrupt culture: Remember that Elisha ministered in the northern kingdom of the divided kingdom of Israel during a very corrupt and difficult time. God's own people had rejected Him and begun to follow the pagan gods of the day, especially Baal. Elisha's ministry in the northern kingdom of Israel lasted for about 60 years, and he ministered during a time that was not only religiously and spiritually corrupt, but

politically corrupt as well. Immorality, crime and violence, and abuse was also characteristic of Elisha's time. Yet, time and time again, throughout his ministry we see Elisha shining the truth of God's Word, God's ways, and God's witness to this corrupt culture. And this should be the testimony of our lives as believers as well in our day.

H – Hope-filled, not hope-less: Remember that Elisha is known as the “miracle-working” prophet with no one in Scripture being used by God to perform more miracles in the Bible except Moses. These miracles were constantly pointing hope in the midst of the hopelessness and despair of his day. God is a God of hope and salvation even when all hope has been lost, and Elisha's miracles reminded God's people that hope abounds even in the darkest of times. Today, there is much to feel hope-less about, but Christians must never give in to the temptation and compulsion to despair and descend into the darkness of hopelessness. We served a living, loving, faithful and caring, powerful, omnipotent God who is still on His throne, and still in control. We should be hope-filled always, and never hope-less like Elisha.

A – Abounding in faith: The faith of Elisha is seen throughout his ministry in Israel, from the parting of the water of the Jordan, to the multiplying of the widow's oil, to the raising of the Shunnamite woman's son from the dead and more. Elisha performed more than 20 recorded miracles all testaments of his faith in his great God, yet his faith is shown greatest in his quite trust and reliance on God through the trials, challenges and difficulties of his life in turbulent times. Like today, our abounding faith shines brightest not in the bright light of the glorious days, but in the darkest of them. That is when our faith shows (shines) most.

As we have been saying, we are living in times not unlike those of Elisha's day in many ways. Again, he ministered during a time that was not only religiously and spiritually corrupt, but politically corrupt as well. Immorality, crime and violence, and abuse was also characteristic of Elisha's time, and no surprise as they had given themselves to gods of their time. The poison of Elisha's day had spread its toxins throughout the culture and it had certainly poisoned the religious climate of the day. Think of this...

***What do you believe poisons the culture of our times? How and why?
How has it poisoned the church and religion today?***

5 Things Poisoning the Church Today

(1) **Worldly philosophies and ideologies are poisoning the church today** – Things like CRT (Critical Race Theory) is infiltrating the church today and pulpits, Social Justice, the “MeToo” movement, gender and transgender identity movement, and more. In an article entitled “The Marxist Poisoning of American Christianity,” D.T. Osborn says, “The Christian Church in America has been poisoned by the political philosophy of Marxism. Today, nothing can distinguish the Left church from those aligned with the

political leaders who espouse Marxist-Socialist policies in America.” *How might this be poisoning the church today?*

- (2) **A lack of true grounding in the Word of God is poisoning the church today** - In other words, a biblical illiteracy. We face a threat of being thin on the Bible. Yes, we have some verses memorized. And certain culturally-acceptable Christian morals still guide us. But, it increasingly seems that a large swath of evangelicals have very little Bible in their bones. Every Christian is being disciplined by the world around him or her. That is why Paul says, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind”* (Romans 12:2). In certain ways, I fear we have been Cannanized. God has much to say about how we spend our time, how we function in the home, what we set before our eyes, when and to whom we submit, how we spend our money, and how we raise our children. If we drift from God’s Word on these topics, and others, we are in real danger. We need to get serious about changing our mind to agree with God’s Word for *“all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Neutralize this threat with this book: *Taking God at His Word* by Kevin DeYoung. *How might this be poisoning the church today?*

- (3) **Secularization is poisoning the church** – The secularization of the church allows the ways of the world to seep into the beliefs and practices of the Christian church thereby diluting the truth. If we find something in the church that is contrary to scripture but is taught in the secular world, then that church has become, in part, secularized. The more we find from the world in the church, the more that church is secularized and the toxins permeating its veins. Following is a list of some things that may be examples of secularization in the church. Of course, this list is not exhaustive nor is it authoritative, it is food for thought though. In a secularly poisoned church teaching that the Bible is not inspired and inerrant, teaching that there is more than one way to God besides Jesus, being embarrassed to say that Jesus is the only way to salvation, teaching that there is no absolute right and wrong (no moral absolutes), being self-consciously careful to not offend anyone at the expense of biblical truth (afraid to preach biblical truth because it might offend), pastors preaching moralism (just be good to be saved) instead of Christ-centered message (Jesus is the only way), approving of homosexuality and other sexually deviant lifestyles despite what the Bible says (the secular pressure is on for us to be tolerant of all sorts of things the Bible says are sin.. we must agree with the Bible on sin), use of politically correct terms of the world from the pulpit where those terms replace biblical values and truths (homosexual activity is not just an “alternative lifestyle,” its sin, abortion is not “reproductive rights” or “a woman’s right to choose” is the sin of murder, sexual activity and living together outside of marriage is not “co-habitation,” is sin... you get it), going to church a social habit and a going through the motions, prayer is a last resort, missionaries not sent out or supported and the need to evangelize is not promoted (no need to because there are many paths to God anyway and everyone gets into heaven)... all of these and more may be the poisonous drops in a secularized church.

(4) **Apathy and indifference is poisoning the church today** – Like the church of Laodicea of old in Revelation 3, apathy and indifference (lukewarmness) has always been a deadly toxin in the church. Today is no different. Nobel Prize winner, Romanian Jewish thinker, Elie Wiesel said, “The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.” Indifference is a deadly poison that will destroy the work of God in the church. That's why Jesus warned the church that it will cause him to “spit you out of your mouth.”

(5) **Compromise is poisoning the church today** - In politics, relationships and business agreements, compromise is important. But in our moral and spiritual lives, when we use the word “compromise,” this is a very negative thing. Dr. Tony Evans said, “Compromise is the cancer of the church, and we must rid Christ's body of it. While Christians can compromise on preferences, they cannot compromise on principles. We can't be one way on Sunday and another on Monday. This is a major problem among Christians in America today.” And D.L. Moody said, “Christians should live in the world, but not be filled with it. A ship lives in the water; but if the water gets into the ship, she goes to the bottom. So Christians may live in the world; but if the world gets into them, they sink.”

Now here is what I want you to see, there is much in the world that is toxic... poisonous and it is poisoning the church today, seeping in with its toxins, and seeping into our lives as believers. As we will hear the prophets cry out in our passage, “there is death (poison) in the pot,” so there is poison in in what the world is serving up and it's killing us.

What are we to do? Well now listen, there is hope in the Lord. That is Elisha's message here in his day when he was pointing to the hope of the salvation of the Lord (remember that the name Elisha mean “God is salvation”) in the culture of his day, in the midst of the people of God who had been poisoned by their day (Baal worship)... there is hope.

³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.” ³⁹ So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were. ⁴⁰ Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, “Man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ So he said, “Then bring some flour.” And he put it into the pot, and said, “Serve it to the people, that they may eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the pot.-2 Kings 4:38-41 (NKJV)

THE FAMINE AND THE POT OF STEW (2 Kings 4:38)

³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.” Notice it...Elisha returned to Gilgal where a school of the prophets was located.

2 lessons here from to notice:

1. **Elisha's return = He was living in obedience and fully invested in God's call on his life** - The first point brought to our attention in **verse 38** is the fact of Elisha's return. Now think of it... Elisha could have remained in the home of the Shunammite where he would have had comfort and provision of food, but as a true shepherd and a godly man who meant business with God, he was bound in duty and heart to the prophets and their need.

- This time of famine, not unlike the famine that existed for the teaching and hearing of the word (Amos 8:11)
- This was a great opportunity to communicate the truth of God's Word to these future preachers of the Word.
- But like the Lord, whom Elisha so resembled in his ministry, he would use this famine and the current conditions and events to illustrate certain truth and to teach the reality of God's covenant with Israel.
- A good shepherd does not abandon the fold when trouble comes, but stays with the sheep to encourage and instruct them through the events of life.

2. **The famine in the land = Shining the truth of God on a corrupt culture** -The second point brought to our attention is the fact of the prophet's return in a time of famine. The words, "*there was*" are in italics in the NASB, the KJV, and the NKJV which means they do not exist in the Hebrew text. Literally the verse would read, "And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and famine in the land." This is a nominal sentence and is slightly emphatic.

- Immediately, the point brought to our attention is Elisha's return, but it was during a time when there was famine in the land.
- What land is this? It is the land of promise. It is the land which God swore to give to Israel, and which He had done.
- Further, He had promised to bless the land and make it fruitful if Israel would obey the Lord.
- Think of this... He promised in **Deuteronomy 28:12**, "*the Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its seasons . . .*"
- But God had also promised, if they would not obey Him and His Word, "*the heaven which is over your head shall be bronze and the earth which is under you, iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.*" (Deut. 28:23-24).
- And so now to an Israel that was drenched in the teaching and ideas of the false cult of Baalism and its phony claims that Baal was the god of thunderstorms, there was famine in the land exactly as God had promised.
- **Of course, the real problem was the spiritual famine of a godless and idolatrous society, a society which was seeking to live without the inspired Word of God.**

Those are two very informative lessons, but there is more. There are some powerful and big principles which are actually very important for us to see from this...

3 Important Principles to See:

(1) **When a nation turns away from the Lord it not only reaps what it has sown and brings on itself the judgment of God, but the godly who are left also suffer (as were *these prophets*)** - Even though God would (and did) supply their needs, they were still suffering the consequences of idolatry. Likewise, because of the spiritual and moral breakdown in our nation today, it is unsafe to walk down the street at night in most of our cities.

(2) **This reminds us of the need and responsibilities that we have to function as light and salt to illuminate the darkness and preserve our nation from decay** - Christians need to stand up and be counted!

(3) **Such conditions also mean times of need and opportunity for the people of God** - We need to gather together often for teaching and encouragement and to be equipped to reach out to a lost and hurting society, which is precisely what we see here in these disciples of Elisha. **Malachi 3:16** says this, *"Then those who fear the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name."* And listen to **Hebrews 10:24-25**, *"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*

But let's not forget that one of the reasons nations turn away from the Lord (i.e., stop taking time for God's Word, and instead taking in the poison of the world) is that they become so wrapped up in their own affluence, prosperity, and pursuits that they forget the God who gave it to them (Deuteronomy 6:10-12 cf. with 4-6).

READ: Deuteronomy 6:10-12 (see vv.4-6)

¹⁰ "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, ¹¹ houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—¹² then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Notice verse again... *“And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him...”* See it in v.38, *“...Now the sons of the prophet were sitting . . .”* Now, what do you suppose they were doing?

- Playing monopoly? Hardly.
- No, they were in Bible class learning the Word, listening intently to the prophet, the one known as God’s man for the hour, a man who demonstrated that God was real.
- In this context of physical and spiritual famine, Elisha said to his servant, *“put on the large pot . . .”*
- Here was a perfect time for an illustration. Like our Lord often did (compare the feeding of the five thousand in Mark 6), Elisha was going to kill two birds with one stone. First, he was going to meet their need for food, but at the same time he was going to use this as an opportunity to illustrate and reinforce an important spiritual truth (cf. Mark 6:51, 52).
- The word for *“stew”* is the Hebrew *nazid*, which refers to “soup or stew, or that which is boiled in a pot, pottage.”
- It consisted of a conglomeration of things boiled together, usually vegetables and meat or vegetables and meal.
- There is an instructive analogy here... don’t miss this
 - The pot is like the world, a conglomeration of man’s ideas, religions, cults, and humanistic philosophies by which people attempt to satisfy their spiritual appetites and deal with the spiritual famine that is in the world.
 - The parable of the wheat and tares is a similar analogy.

THE GATHERING OF THE WILD GOURDS (VS. 39)

³⁹ *So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were.* This verse reveals they got the ingredients for the pottage, wild herbs, from the field. *“Field”* is the Hebrew *sadeh* which refers to an open, uncultivated area of land where you can only find that which grows wild.

- The unnamed gatherer of the herbs went out and found what he thought would make a good stew.
- These herbs were soft, succulent plants without a lot of woody tissue; they were palatable, and often used for medicinal purposes or for their sweet flavor and aromatic scent.
- But what he found out in the field (a picture of the world) were poisonous herbs.
- Untrained in these matters, he mistook the wild vine for an edible cucumber or squash.
- What he found is believed to be the *citrallus colocynthus*, which had a leaf like a squash but was bitter and poisonous due to its very severe purgative qualities.
- If eaten in large amounts it would tear up the digestive tract and could even cause death.
- In small amounts you might not die, but you might think you were going to--and might even want to.

Now think about this... “What’s the picture?” I hope you see this...

- It is a picture of the world is full of poisonous ideas that may look harmless and even resemble the truth, but they are bitter and bring unhappiness to man.
- To be able to recognize this and to protect others from these bitter herbs, men need to be trained in the Word of God that they may in turn equip others in the truth.
- **Compare Paul's challenge to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:2) and his instruction in Ephesians 4:12-16 and note the parallel with Elisha in the school of these prophets.**

➤ 2 Timothy 2:2, *"² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

➤ Ephesians 4:12-16, *"¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

THERE IS DEATH IN THE POT (VS. 40)

⁴⁰ *Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.* Did you notice it? Unsuspectingly, they dished up this poisonous stew, but soon the effects were experienced; it was bitter and they undoubtedly quickly began to experience stomach cramps. They rose from the table in pain and fear. There was death in the pot. The wild herbs picked from the field, without the discerning expertise of a master herbalist who knew the difference between what was edible and what was not, were poison. So the prophets cried out to the man of God, for only God has the antidote and the means of life.

- The pictures here are clear enough. The world is full of poisonous ideas and solutions to life. To the untrained, indiscriminating ear and eye, they sound and look good, but they are full of death and misery.
- Further, in this picture, we see the believer's responsibility.
- In Jesus Christ and His Word we have the antidote--the answer to man's death and the means of life eternal and life abundantly (John 10:10). *"¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*
- Unfortunately, our tendency is to follow our own instincts and that which seems right to us.

In *Guideposts*, Ronald Pinkerton describes a near accident he had while hang gliding. He had launched his hang glider and been forcefully lifted 4,200 feet into the air. As he was

descending, he was suddenly hit by a powerful new blast of air that sent his hang glider plummeting toward the ground.

“I was falling at an alarming rate. Trapped in an airborne rip tide, I was going to crash! Then I saw him--a red-tailed hawk. He was six feet off my right wing tip, fighting the same gust I was . . .

I looked down: 300 feet from the ground and still falling. The trees below seemed like menacing pikes.

I looked at the hawk again. Suddenly he banked and flew straight downwind. Downwind! If the right air is anywhere, it's upwind! The hawk was committing suicide.

Two hundred feet. From nowhere the thought entered my mind: *Follow the hawk*. It went against everything I knew about flying. But now all my knowledge was useless. I was at the mercy of the wind. I followed the hawk.

One hundred feet. Suddenly the hawk gained altitude. For a split second I seemed to be suspended motionless in space. Then a warm surge of air started pushing the glider upward. I was stunned. Nothing I knew as a pilot could explain this phenomenon. But it was true: I was rising.⁴³

As the wise writer of Proverbs challenges us in Proverbs 3:5-8, man's need is to, “⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”

THE ANTIDOTE (VS. 41)

⁴¹ So he said, “Then bring some flour.” And he put it into the pot, and said, “Serve it to the people, that they may eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the pot. Elisha called for meal (flour) and threw it into the pot and by a miracle of God the flour neutralized the poison. This beautifully illustrates a wonderful spiritual truth, an analogy for faith and obedience.

- Isn't it interesting that in order to live, they had to eat in faith of that which had been poisonous? Do you see that? He put the healing in the poisonous stew and they had to eat it anyway.
- There was no neutral position.
- They either ate of the flour-sweetened stew or they died.
- “Meal” is the Hebrew word, *gemah*, a form of flour or meal.
- It was used of both a very coarse and very fine flour (Gen. 18:6) and of the ingredient for unleavened bread or cakes (Jud. 6:19).
- The normal word for very fine flour is *selet*, the type used with all the animal sacrifices.
- But as a form of flour, it had definite symbolical significance.
- Meal or flour is used in making bread and Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life.

- Further, there were the Old Testament meal offerings which stood for the person of Jesus Christ, but they were always offered with the animal sacrifices, a picture of the death of Christ (cf. Num. 15:1f).
- This demonstrates the absolute necessity of both the *person* and **work** of Jesus Christ.
- There can be no salvation and forgiveness apart from both.
- But from the standpoint of the offerer, the meal offering represented the offerer's property, his possessions which, when presented with the animal sacrifice, showed the connection between pardon from sin and devotion to the Lord.
- Devotion to the Lord flows out of our pardon for sin. Being saved to serve is the obvious picture.
- So the meal stands as a picture of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, the Bread from heaven, who of course is revealed only in the Bible, the written Word.
- The point of the lesson is that only God's Word which reveals Jesus Christ is the antidote to the death in the pot. #
- Only Jesus Christ can give life and remove the spiritual famine of the world or feed us in the midst of famine.

But note the last part of verse 41, *⁴¹ So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.*

2 Important Truths:

- (1) **In order to live, they had to eat of the now harmless, life-giving pot of stew** - We must feed on God's Word and its precious revelation of Jesus Christ. The prophets had to believe God, and by faith eat of this stew in order to be delivered from the poisonous stew.
- (2) **There is no neutral position** - Either one feeds upon Jesus Christ or he must starve and die as he attempts to live off the pottage of the world. A neutral position toward the Word is really a positive position for the world. Either we feed off God's life-giving Word or we feed off the poisonous words of the world.

Paul writes in Romans 8:5-7, *⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

Hosea 4:6 says, *"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."*

Again the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:20-25, “²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

43 Craig Brian Larson, *Contemporary Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers, and Writers*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 1996, p. 112.