A Lack of Knowledge / Conviction
Issues Facing The Church Today

I. INTRODUCTION
A. This morning we conclude our series of lessons looking at Issues Facing the Church Today by again noting that we should never assume these things will never “happen here.” All of the topics we have looked at over the past few months have been relevant for today and things that hopefully we will not have to go through at Glendale, but should be continually prepared for.
B. This morning, our final “issue facing the church today” could actually be considered the root cause of many of the “issues” we’ve already covered, and that is A Lack of Knowledge / Conviction. Knowledge is gained from a study of God’s Word and Conviction is the faith which comes from that knowledge [ROM 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God].
C. While I don’t particularly appreciate polls & stats [mainly because they are far too subjective and prone to abuse 74% of the time], it would be interesting to take a poll of every American today about their knowledge of God’s Word. I wonder how many of them would:
1. say that Adam & Eve ate the apple in the garden
2. think Jonah was swallowed by a whale
3. believe that Sodom was Gomorrah’s husband
4. believe that Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife
5. Billy Graham preached the sermon on the mount
D. This morning we are going to talk about the problems presented when knowledge and true conviction (faith) are lacking and what we can do to address the issue.

II. THE PROBLEM
A. When You
1. Lack Knowledge
   a) You will be destroyed - HOS 4:1,6
   b) You will be in the dark - PSA 119:105
      (1) You will make the wrong choices and not know how to get back up once you’ve fallen. You will be left feeling around for the answer, but will not find it.
   c) All the sincerity and zeal in the world will be useless - ROM 10:1-3
2. [but if you have knowledge yet] Lack Conviction
   a) You will know the truth, but you will not practice it - ROM 2:17-24
      (1) Unfortunately this has become more and more prevalent in the church and continues to be a source of reproach.
   b) You will easily point out the flaws in others without actually focusing on your own - MATT 7:3-5 - Speck vs. Log
B. When The Church
1. Lacks Knowledge
   a) Teachers will be scarce - HEB 5:12
   b) False teachers will overtake the congregation - 2 PET 2:1-3
2. [but if it has knowledge yet] Lacks Conviction
   a) Lukewarmness will abound - REV 3:15-17
   b) Works will be dead / fruitless - REV 3:1

III. THE SOLUTION
   A. Recognize Your Lack of Knowledge / Conviction
      1. If we are unable to recognize our lack of knowledge or conviction, we will go
         on thinking we are okay when we are not.
      2. If we spend too much time recognizing everyone else’s lack of knowledge or
         conviction, we will study God’s Word thinking, “Those people just don’t
         understand this” or “They just can’t seem to get this straight in their mind” or a
         whole host of other phrases.
      3. We must have a heart that desires knowledge - PROV 2:3-6
   B. Daily Personal Bible Study
      1. We should desire to study daily - PSA 119:97-98; 1 PET 2:2
      2. Taking time each day to systematically, prayerfully study God’s Word will
         a) bring us closer to God
         b) gradually increase our understanding of God’s Word
         c) help us through the day
   C. Regular Bible Study with Others
      1. We need to realize the benefits we have in each other - HEB 3:12-14;
         10:24-25
      2. We should seek opportunities to study with each other
         a) in our Bible classes
         b) at our homes
         c) whenever the need arises
   D. Parents Willing To Train
      1. Parents have the responsibility to instill knowledge to their children - DEUT
         6:6-7; EPH 6:4
      2. As with secular education, the parent cannot expect the Bible class teacher to
         be the sole source of instruction about God’s Word.
   E. Preachers Willing To Preach
      1. We need preachers who are willing to stay true to the Word of God - 2 TIM
         4:2-5
      2. We need preachers who will not ride their “hobby horse”, but ones preach the
         whole council of God. - ACTS 20:27
   F. Elders Recognizing The Needs
      1. Like a shepherd who keeps watch over their flock, our elders need to
         recognize the needs of the members and how to feed them if knowledge is
         lacking. - JER 23:4
      2. We need elders who are able to teach those who lack knowledge, and rebuke
         those who are contrary to Christ.
   G. Christians Bravely Evangelizing
      1. We need to be able to teach those in the world if we ever hope to save them
         - MATT 28:19-20
      2. That is going to take courage and effort on our part.
IV. CONCLUSION
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