

# Ignorance is Bliss?

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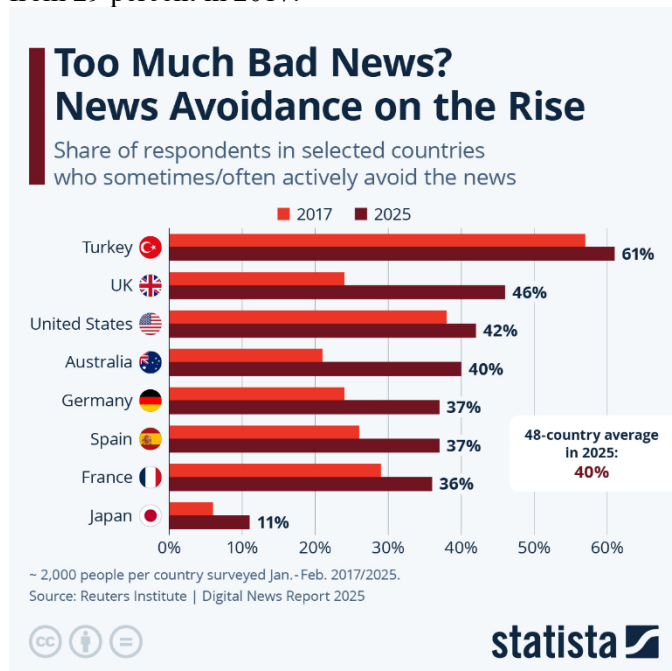
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**For Discussion:** Too Much Bad News? News Avoidance on the Rise (statista.com; June 17, 2025)

<https://www.statista.com/chart/27632/prevalence-of-selective-news-avoidance/>

## With so much going on today, are people keeping up with the news?

According to the Reuters Institute's latest Digital News Report, an average of 40 percent of respondents from 48 countries included in the survey said that they sometimes or often actively avoid the news, a significant increase from 29 percent in 2017.



Selective news avoidance became significantly more widespread across all markets in recent years, with more than four in 10 respondents from the UK and the U.S. consciously reducing their news intake.

## Why are people avoiding the news?

The report finds that news avoidance is often linked with low trust in the news and there are generally two types of news avoiders: consistent avoiders who typically have low education levels and little to no interest in the news and selective avoiders who struggle with news overload and try to insulated themselves to protect their mental wellbeing.

## What is the case for ignorance being bliss?

- Reduced stress & anxiety: Not knowing about negative news, personal problems, or potential dangers can lead to a more carefree & relaxed state.
- Childhood innocence: Children experience a sense of wonder & joy without the weight of worries.
- Focus on the present: Ignorance can allow for a greater focus on the present moment without being bogged down by potential future problems.

## What is the case against ignorance being bliss?

- Missed opportunities: Knowledge can empower individuals to make better choices and take advantage of opportunities that they might otherwise miss.
- Lack of self-awareness: Being ignorant of one's own flaws or tendencies can hinder personal growth and relationships.
- Potential for harm: Ignorance of important information, such as health risks or safety precautions, can lead to negative consequences.

## So, is ignorance bliss or not?

It can be for a time but ultimately ignorance will become a problem. This is particularly true when it comes to the most important issues, spiritual matters.

## What is ignorance?

Ignorance is the lack of knowledge or understanding.

## Why are people ignorant?

Ignorant people are either unaware or uninformed.

- Sometimes we are ignorant because we did not know there was a need to learn something.
- Other times, we are ignorant because we have chosen not to learn something we need to know.

## How can knowledge actually reduce news-induced stress?

Bad news can be put into perspective by an understanding of what God has revealed about the future.

- It is encouraging to see the stage being set for what God has told us will happen.
- The return of Jesus will fix what is wrong with this world; the more bad news we see, the closer we get to His return.

## How does God equip His children to deal with bad news?

2 Timothy 1:7 – *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*

The trends of this world are often apparent in news reports for those who honestly consider their implications. Most people don't give much thought to current events because it only makes their fears grow.

- Knowing Jesus as Lord is the best way to cope because He helps us face our fears with a sound, rational mind and is a by-product of having a personal relationship with Him.

## What is the problem with willful ignorance?

Hosea 4:6 – [the Lord says,] *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you.”*

Willfully rejecting knowledge that God wants us to have is sinful ignorance. While unintentional ignorance about earthly topics is understandable, intentional ignorance about spiritual matters can lead to eternal destruction...

Romans 1:18 – *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*

## Is there a distinction between ignorance & innocence?

We don't have to be ignorant of sin; in fact, we can be highly informed about sin yet remain innocent of it. But we should all be ignorant about the practice of evil.

Ephesians 5:11-12 – *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

Jesus wants us to be knowledgeable while being innocent...

Matthew 10:16 – *I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*

## Why is being knowledgeable important in spiritual warfare?

To effectively fight the spiritual battle, we must know how our enemy functions. Believers are encouraged to forgive each other, *“so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs”* (2 Cor 2:11, ESV).

- Ignorance about what the devil is up to—and ignorance of the damage done by unforgiveness—is dangerous to our spiritual health.

## How is it a tactic of Satan to keep people dumbed-down?

One of Satan's basic tactics is to keep people ignorant:

2 Corinthians 4:4 – *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ.*

Ignorant people are easy prey for those with wicked schemes (Psalm 1:1-2; Proverbs 7:6-7, 21-23).

## How does spiritual ignorance lead to idolatry?

People are wired to worship the Creator... those who reject Him will worship something created.

Isaiah 45:20 – *Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save*

Ignorance of the true God is unjustifiable, because the knowledge of God's existence and power is available all around us (Romans 1:18-23).

- People who substitute false gods instead of pursuing the real God are sinfully ignorant.

## What is the hope for the ignorant?

God has great patience, even with the ignorant. Despite being willfully ignorant, He gives us a multitude of opportunities to learn...

2 Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Paul said that God showed him mercy because, before Jesus saved him, he had *“acted in ignorance and unbelief”* (1 Timothy 1:13; Acts 3:17).

Acts 17:30-31 – *Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.*

## What does God want from us instead of ignorance?

God commands us to repent of our ignorance and seek Him with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

- The opposite of spiritual ignorance is wisdom, and we are told to seek wisdom above all things (Proverbs 3:13-18).

Fortunately, wisdom is readily accessible; the book of Proverbs personifies wisdom as a noble lady who is calling out to all publicly:

Proverbs 8:5 – *O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart.*

Every time the Bible commands us to “listen” or to “hear,” God is giving us a chance to trade ignorance for His wisdom.

### **What is the prophetic significance of the growing ignorance of what is going on in the world?**

It is directly related to the ignorance of spiritual matters and a characteristic of the times before God pours out His wrath...

Matthew 24:37 – *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Just like in the time before the flood of Noah's day, most people today are oblivious to the coming judgment of God. People are passing up their opportunity to accept Jesus as Savior and will be swept away by the flood of events.

- God commended *"the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do"* (1 Chronicles 12:32).
- Jesus also rebuked the Pharisees for not knowing *the signs of the times* (Matthew 16:3).
- We too would be better off in the USA if more of those in power were like the sons of Issachar.

### **What is going on today that should wake people up to God's warnings about the end of the Age?**

- Israel fulfilling prophecy: preservation of culture despite Diaspora, returning to the land, restoration of Hebrew language, invincibility in warfare, worldwide antisemitism, desire to build temple
- Technology: nuclear weapons that can destroy all humanity, AI & digital money for Mark of the Beast, DNA altering for transhumanism, cell phone saturation
- Globalism: collaboration of nations to save the planet from climate change, pandemics, economy crash, war
- Wars: growing racial hatred, civil unrest, threat of nuke use, depopulation agenda
- Natural disasters: a deadly flood somewhere every day, increasing earthquakes
- Culture: increasing interest in the occult, apostasy of church, ecumenicalism, interest in UFO disclosure

### **What should those who are ignorant of our times do?**

Repent, and obey the Lord's command to *watch* (Matthew 24:42). This entails knowing what to watch for by studying God's prophetic Word. This prepares us to help people see the biblical perspective of bad news. And stay up on the news to be in a position to discuss it with others.

### **How can we put the increasing incidence of bad news in a biblical perspective?**

2 Timothy 3:13 – *Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived*

The growing incidence of bad news actually fulfills prophecy. God is removing His restraint of evil as a birth pang of the coming Kingdom of Christ on earth.

- There will be no restraint of evil during the Tribulation when mankind will have free reign to pursue a utopian vision of life apart from God.

### **How can we deal with bad news that affects us?**

Romans 8:28 – *We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose*

We may not know the reason God allows bad things to happen to us until after we are resurrected. But we can know that God always acts in our best interest and can use tragedy to bring good from an eternal perspective.

Revelation 21:4 – *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away*

Having an eternal perspective helps us deal with the bad things of this fallen world.

### **How does looking forward to the Lord's return help us deal with bad news?**

Psalms 112:7 – *He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD* (NIV)

The follower of Christ need not fear news reports, no matter how bad they are. We know that the Lord is in control and that He loves His children.

- All bad news reports really do is remind us how sorely this world needs Jesus to return. And as we see the trends developing, we get a sense of how close we are to our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13).

God will use our courage in the face of bad news reports to attract others to Him.

### **What applications do we see from this discussion?**

- Ignorance is not bliss, especially when it comes to spiritual matters.
- God wants us to not be ignorant to what is going on in the world, instead we are commanded to watch.
- God equips His children to deal with bad news and calls us to use that help others grow closer to Him.
- There is plenty going on today that should cause people to wake up to the reality of the times