



May 15, 2005

Consequences

Rejecting God is one of the problems that the world has. We know that Christ taught there would be few who found the way to eternal life (**Matt 7.13-14**), not because it is so difficult to do so, but because the human mind seeks that which pleases in a worldly sense. The scriptures tell us that there will come a time when the world will be destroyed (**2 Pet 3.10**). Peter goes on to ask a question. *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”* (**2 Pet 3.11-12**). We may not be alive when these things come about and so we warn those who will listen while there is life, time, and one has the capability of making a decision to do that which is right in the sight of God. This is a harsh reality that must be faced. The focus of life is to therefore to learn how to serve God and meet the conditions that he has set forth in his word. The time may come when we, through health or other circumstances, cannot do this. An example of this is the sin of king Saul.

Saul was told to utterly destroy the Amalekites (**1 Sam 15.2-3**). Saul, however, did not do this as he was instructed. Saul and the people spared king Agag and the best of their oxen and sheep. In the conversation that followed, after Saul had made numerous excuses for not following God’s command, Samuel stated, *“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”* (**1 Sam 15.22**). Saul’s pride had caused him to make changes to the command of God and because of this God departed from him. This episode demonstrates that we may continue in something until such a point that we cannot correct our lives. When we change the commands of God, substituting other ideas for them, we may fool ourselves into thinking that we are doing God’s will when in fact we are not. Christ stated, *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (**Matt 7.22-23**). We may try to defend our lack of adherence to God’s law by the good things that we have done. Christ went on to say, *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”* (**Matt 7.24-25**).

As we live we learn and hopefully become wiser as we age. In respect to God and what he wants us to do there are many who remain locked in the foolishness of thinking that we are able to edit the word of God to fit what we want, rather than submitting to his righteousness. The passages above describe Christ’s statement about the judgment. There are those who have convinced themselves that what they believe is acceptable to God, knowing that the scriptures teach otherwise on many points. Christ tells us the true love for him is demonstrated in keeping his commandments (**John 14.15**). Failure to do this will result in eternal damnation for not submitting to the Lord as we should. The consequences for this type of thinking are too dire to turn our attention away from. Too many have the idea that God is so loving that he will accept anything as long as it is done in his name and results in good for ourselves and others. Sadly this is not the case. Christ was willing to die to bring the Gospel message into the world. Our task is to die to the ways of the world and accept only the will of God. What holds us back then from doing what God wants us to do? What is worth trading our eternal souls for and risking condemnation? Can we live with those consequences?

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