



December 5, 2010

It Wasn't The Intention

Accidents happen every day and there are educational efforts intended to inform and alert the public to the dangers that surround us. Many times these fall on deaf ears or only make a momentary impression that fades as the stream of life goes on. There are things that happen over which we have no control. There are other things that occur that could be prevented but we fail to take the necessary precautions. I am convinced that drug addicts never intended to become slaves to a substance that would control and ruin their lives. Warnings not to try things went unheeded and the news is filled with things that result from the dependency that runs a persons life. Alcoholics never envisioned the loss of social and vocational ability that comes from drinking as it was never their intention to become altered and drawn into a life of degradation and regret. This results when we ignore the warnings and continue in our pursuits without thinking of the long term consequences. One of the things that one who has become dependent on substances has to do in order to take control of their lives is admit to the reality their existence has taken on. Spiritually no one really intends to be lost eternally but in spite of the warnings and the revelation God has given us we have a tendency to stray from what God would have us do. Some who are locked in the stranglehold of addiction will defend what they are doing claiming it as a freedom or right that one has to do as one pleases. Spiritually the prevailing attitude is that we can serve God in whatever manner pleases us and we don't have to worry about what the Bible says. This is a very common attitude and the effect it has can be seen in the scriptures and history. As the children of Israel settled into Canaan, they adopted the attitude that they could do whatever they wanted. The book of Judges summarizes this lack of direction as the writer states, "***In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.***" (Judg 21.25). The people should have been looking to God for direction but they forgot him. The book of Judges is filled with the turmoil that filled the land as everyone did what they felt was right. It was not God's intention for his people to live in that fashion and patiently worked with them until the point there was no longer any hope of their following him (2 Chron 36.15-16). As the Hebrews were led into captivity by the Babylonians, under the Chaldean dynasty of Nebuchadnezzar, it was not their intention to wind up in that state but their defiance earned the negative consequences of their actions. The prophets called them to repent and remember the Lord but they would not turn from the chaotic spiral into evil that destroyed them. As we try to warn people today and invite them to obey God we are confronted with everything from extreme liberalism and alternative lifestyles to simple negligence in learning about God. I am sure that many of these folks do not intend to set themselves in opposition to God but rather see themselves as standing against the archaic teachings of the ancient world that just happened to survive. The scriptures teach that God indeed is the creator of all things and will one day send his son to return to judge the world. Skepticism and unbelief are as old as time and is depicted in the scriptures. Peter tell us that "***...there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.***" (2 Pet 3.3-4). The scriptures contain stories that tell us the outcome of decisions made by individuals, some who trusted God, and others who decided to turn away from the Lord. Most folks don't intend to be lost eternally but the refusal to consider the truth of God's word and the desire to live as comfortably as possible without the limitations of answering to a higher power, on the higher power's terms, will do just that. Intentional or not the result is that we will be lost if the message goes unheeded.

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