



Unintentional Lives

Every day we hear of events that represent unintended consequences in peoples lives. All of us experience these from time to time and refer to them mostly as accidents or lapses in judgment. Examples of this spans a range of activities and outcomes from traffic accidents to criminal activity. Many times this is the result of poor planning or lives that have been cast adrift by circumstances that reflect a lack of awareness of what might happen. Sadly, the result of this type of living and thinking is tragic. On every hand we see and hear warnings that are designed to increase awareness and help us prepare for the inevitable. Often victims of such circumstances are heard to say that they never thought that something of the nature they have lived through would ever happen to them. Sometimes there are events, such as natural disasters that are out of our control and we must face them as best we can. Other situations are preventable. Putting smoke detectors in our homes and changing the batteries once a year can help save our lives in the event of a housefire. Defensive driving and the observation of traffic laws can help prevent accidents and keep us safer as we travel. Unfortunately there are too many who ignore such warnings and continue on not realizing that it is not a matter of “if” such things will happen, but when. This is the reason why God has revealed himself to mankind. We have his word in a form that we can read, understand and obey. The result of this will be a life that is free of many of the concerns and fears that some bring on themselves by ignoring attempts to raise their awareness of certain dangers. God has revealed that there will be a time when Christ will be sent to judge the world. Paul stated, **“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (Rom 14.11)**. Peter tells us what this time will be like when he writes, **“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Pet 3.7)** . Christ warned his disciples that this will come without warning on

the Earth and stated that we should always be diligent and prepared. **“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. ... But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 24.44,48-51)**. We might be tempted to believe that since it has been so long since Christ was on the Earth, it is just a story. In the world today there are many who would like for us to believe that. We have to ask some simple questions however. Is there any other book like the Bible that has survived the ages, been rejected and hated as much, and yet survives and continues to influence, and improve the lives of those who will read and obey it. Is there any other book from antiquity that records things in a manner similar to that which we find in the Bible. Some would have us believe that an intellectually impoverished culture of the Hebrews recorded the events of the Old Testament, and a multicultural conspiracy over the past two thousand years has promoted and protected the greatest lie in the world. The answer to these questions, I believe is stated best by the apostle Paul when he told the Romans, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1.16)**. Paul describes the word of God as the “sword of the spirit” (**Eph 6.17**) and the writer of Hebrews characterizes that power as able to penetrate and expose our deepest secrets and intentions (**Heb 4.12**). In the end, all we can say is that we have been warned. Now what are we going to do with it?