

No Consequences/Know Consequences

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Key Text:

Galatians 6:7-9 (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **8** Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. **9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

As we look around our world today it is easy to observe two different approaches to life.

There are those who live life with the idea that there are NO CONSEQUENCES or, at the very least, the strong feeling that there should not be any consequences. Interestingly they often only apply this way of thinking to their own ideology, actions and agendas while at the same time calling for those with differing views to be held accountable or (suffer consequences) for what they believe, say or do. They do not believe that there is a set standard of acceptable behavior that can be applied to all people but rather only a vague and loose set of relative truths defined by the individual or group of individuals who have for the current time gathered together for a common cause.

On the other hand, there are those who approach life with a deep conviction that there indeed are consequences for the choices that we make in life. These consequences exist not because we have created them, but because the one who created and designed all things, alone defines what is right and what is wrong. Through His Word and by His Spirit he has revealed these truths to us, made known the consequences of obeying or disobeying these truths, and called us to live our lives in conformity to His will

Micah 6:8-9

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Our key text speaks of the truth of consequences... "A man will reap what he sows."

Yet there are those who are deceived and, in their deception, mock God by believing there are no consequences

NO CONSEQUENCES

The world believes there are no consequences...

Romans 1:28-32 (NIV)

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

The world chooses to believe there are no consequences. That's one of the reasons I believe we are where we are right now in our nation.

There are no consequences for violent protests in the streets.

No consequences for disrespecting authority and law enforcement. In the home and in the public square.

No consequences for breaking the law.

No consequences for destroying property and erasing history.

No consequences for disregarding the truths of God's word regarding gender, sexuality, marriage, homosexuality, adultery, divorce, promiscuity, anger, hatred, unforgiveness, murder, abortion, forced sterilization, euthanasia, and so much more.

No consequences for lying, deceit and manipulation even at the highest levels of our society.

No consequences of unbridled governmental spending.

No consequences for the destruction of our democracy and replacing it with socialistic and Marxist ideologies.

A couple of decades ago we threw out the idea of disciplining our children because we said it was mean and cruel. Even though the bible says...

Proverbs 13:24 (NIV)

Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

We did away with the idea of corporal punishment of any kind. We have progressively eliminated consequences from the justice system so now we have a group of people who believe they can do what they want, when they want, and not face any consequences - and it should be ok with everyone else.

There are those in the bible who also bought the lie propagated by the enemy in the garden - that there are no consequences. "You will not die"

Of course, Adam and Eve...

Cain (thought he could kill his brother and no one, including God would be the wiser)

Moses (killed an Egyptian and thought he could hide it by burying him in the sand)

David (slept with Bathsheba and tried to hide it by deceiving and then killing one of his best friends.)

The Kings of Israel and Judah thought they could set up false idols, and ignore the principles that God had set up for them, even sacrificing their children in the fire

2 Timothy 3:1-4

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

These are those who thought they could live beyond consequences; but God taught us from the beginning that there indeed are consequences to our actions. So we can live believing there are NO Consequences or we can KNOW Consequences and allow that knowledge to shape our behavior

Ephesians 4:17-19

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality^(H) so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

To Know consequences means knowing that there are consequences for what we DO, what we THINK and what we SPEAK

DO

Colossians 3:25 (NASB)

²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Numbers 32:23 (NIV)

²³ "...you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death...

Think

Matthew 5:28 (NIV)

²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Proverbs 23:7 (NIV)

⁷ For as he thinks within himself, so he is..

Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death,^(Q) but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Speak

Proverbs 23:7 (NIV)

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death,

Proverbs 12:13 (NIV)

¹³ An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,

James 3:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

To Know consequences means knowing that there are NEGATIVE and POSITIVE consequences

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15 (NIV)

28 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ² All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

¹⁵ However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:

To Know consequences means knowing that there are Consequences in this life and consequences in eternity

John 3:36 (NIV)

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.