

Choices Have Consequences

(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2022)

We live at a time in history when the subject of *"suffering consequences for your choices"* is avoided as much as possible because it requires accountability, especially on the part of our leadership. Therefore, according to this thought process, *"you should be able to do whatever you want, to whomever you want, whenever you want, with little consequence to yourself."* There are so many examples of this today, but for the sake of brevity we can use the example of *"defund the police"*. Leaders of this movement want to *"throw the baby out with the bathwater"*. In other words, although there are some improvements that could be made in a balanced and methodical manner, adherents of this philosophy want to eliminate as many police officers as possible and, as quickly as possible. The consequence of this cavalier approach has already led to the murder of some law enforcement officials, and an increase in violence and crime nationwide. Sadly, many of these *"defund the police"* proponents believe the suffering of other citizens is a small price to pay for their so-called *"just cause"*; especially if the consequences don't affect them.

Because mankind's history reveals the negative consequences of choices that have been made by previous generations, many activists want to destroy, or cancel, historical references; including statues/monuments, books and audio-visual productions that contradict their narrative, specific portions of the school curriculum, etc. However, removing these important references will not change the consequences of foolish and reckless decisions being made by the leaders of today's pampered and misguided generation. Thankfully, there is good news beyond this tragic state of affairs, and it will be discussed later in this document.

In the meantime, day after day, many people around the world are suffering because they are on *"the receiving end"* of foolish and self-serving decisions being made by those in positions of authority. The recent invasion of Ukraine is a case in point. At the time of this writing, thousands have been killed and injured, while millions have fled to European countries that have been purchasing energy from Russia which contributed to the war in the first place. In situations like this, many citizens express frustration, anger, and helplessness as they try to reconcile what is going on around them. And, when attempting to assign blame, it is not uncommon for *"religious people"* to ask why a loving Creator would allow the carnage of war to continue. This question is a good starting point because it can lead to a better understanding of choices and consequences. Specifically, Almighty God does not intervene every time mankind makes foolish, reckless, and selfish decisions. If He did, we would never consider changing the course we are on because He would continually be removing any consequences for our actions. Nor would we understand how important it is to listen to, and follow, His advice, as summarized in His word.

*Now therefore, **listen to me*** (personification of God's word/wisdom; cf. 1Cor. 1:30), *my children, for **blessed are those who keep my ways*** (obedience to God's word results in blessings). ³³*Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it;* ³⁴***Blessed is the man who listens to me*** (Lk. 9:35), *watching daily at my gate, waiting at the posts of my doors.* ³⁵*For whoever finds me finds life* (everlasting; cf. Heb. 5:9) *and obtains favor from the Lord* (cf. Jn. 11:25; 14:6); ³⁶*But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death* (cf. Ex. 23:21; Rom. 6:23a) (Prov. 8:32-36; NKJV used

throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In the beginning of man's history, God allowed Adam to choose whether to obey His word, or not. Included in this discourse was "a *caution/warning*" that the consequence for disobeying God's word would result in everlasting death.

*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*** (Gen. 2:17; emphasis added).

This was a test of Adam's trust in God's word. Would Adam believe that God's command was for his own good? Or was God simply depriving Adam of something? The personification of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (aka: Satan; cf. Rev. 12:9) convinced Adam, through his wife, that God was indeed depriving them of something they were apparently entitled to know, or have.

And the serpent (aka: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."(Gen. 3:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So rather than trusting and obeying God's word/command, Adam and Eve preferred to trust the word of someone who claimed, "to know better than God". Tragically, by believing Satan's lie (cf. Jn. 8:44), Adam and Eve sinned and, contrary to popular opinion, the consequence of sin is everlasting death. Therefore, no one floats off to heaven when they die (cf. Eccl. 9:5; Psa. 6:5, 115:17). Instead, they lose all consciousness until the time of a future resurrection, either to everlasting life or

judgment (cf. Job 14:14-15; 1Cor. 15:12-57; Mt. 25:31-46).

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness (1Jn. 3:4; cf. 2Tim. 2:19; Psa. 119:118, 155).

For the wages of sin is (everlasting) death... (Rom. 6:23a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The other consequence of rejecting God's word is that He removes Himself from those who continue to disobey.

*When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; **even though you make many prayers, I will not hear**. (Because) **your hands are full of bloodshed** (sin)* (Isa. 1:15; cf. Psa. 66:18; Isa. 59:1-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore, God is allowing mankind to experience the consequences of sinful behavior until they reach the point of admitting that His word is truthful, trustworthy, and created to benefit everyone who obeys it.

*"Come now, and let us reason together", says the Lord, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹**If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;** ²⁰But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken* (Isa. 1:18-20).

The last time that Almighty God's representative (The Angel of God; cf. Ex. 23:20-22) directly ruled a nation was during the 11th century BCE. Since that time, all nations have been ruling themselves and experiencing various hardships depending on the degree to which they have dismantled God's law and commandments.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1Sam. 8:4-5).

*And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for **they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them**" (1Sam. 8:7; emphasis added).*

This is an important lesson because it proves that Almighty God and His faithful servants, including Jesus Christ, do not force their value system on others. Instead, they teach His truth and allow individuals to decide whether they are going to live by it, or not (cf. Mt. 4:4). Sadly, because the majority of mankind continually and habitually rejects God's word, they reap the consequences sooner or later. Ultimately, as God's word reveals, mankind will get to the point of complete lawlessness, and the consequence will be the destruction of this planet (cf. 2Tim. 3:1-7; Mt. 24:12; Psa. 119:126). Thankfully, at this future point in time, Almighty God will intervene just before we completely annihilate ourselves. However, according to the following prophecy, only ten percent of the people on earth will survive this cataclysm.

Then I (Isaiah) said, "Until when (will man cease disobeying Your word; cf. Isa. 6:9-10), Lord?" He (the Lord) answered: 'Until towns have been laid waste and deserted, houses left untenanted, countryside made desolate, ¹²and Yahweh drives the people out. There will be great emptiness in the country and, ¹³though a tenth (10%) of the people remain, it will be stripped like a terebinth (tree) of which, once felled, only the stock (stump) remains. The stock is a holy seed (Isa. 6:11-13; The Jerusalem Bible; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ described a similar scenario, and mentioned that his Father's intervention will be the only thing preventing complete destruction of this planet.

*For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. ²⁰And **unless the Lord** (Almighty) **had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved**; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days (Mk. 13:19-20; cf. Psalm 97:10; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

So this will be the future consequence of mankind's ongoing lawless behavior.

On a positive note, the ten percent who survive are pictured enthusiastically pursuing God's way of life and desiring to learn more about it. And, based on the world's projected population between 2022/2023, it would be approximately 800 million people.

*Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain (Biblical symbol of governing authority) of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.**" for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isa. 2:3-4; cf. Micah 4:1-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

As the consequences of lawless behavior intensify, many people will be so stressed and exhausted that, by the time of God's intervention, they will welcome the removal of

all the powers and authorities that have contributed to this debacle (cf. Psalm 97: 2-6; 110:1-2; Heb. 1:13). Next, the period known as "*the millennium*" will commence with Satan being bound for a thousand years (cf. Rev. 20:1-4), and Christ will begin teaching his Father's law and commandments universally. A central part of this instruction will involve explaining that wise choices, based on obedience to God's word, result in positive consequences (cf. Isa. 11:9; Amos 9:13-15). And the people who are alive will understand that the negative consequences of disobeying God's word culminated with devastation throughout our planet. And this "*historical truth*" will not be canceled by anyone. Instead, it will be an integral part of the education process throughout Christ's millennial rule.

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or charges, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved
(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2022)