

Before You Make Decisions Consider The Consequences **Bible Study – Pastor Charles A. Hall – May 16th, 2024**

- **Decision means:** A conclusion or resolution reached after consideration. The action or process of deciding something or of resolving a question. Reaching a final decision is like making a formal judgment.
- **Consequences means:** A result or effect of an action or condition. The result of a decision made, or following something.

Over the past couple of months we have discussed how God communicates with humanity, how humanity communicates with God, how the Word of God is God, and the divine power of the Word of God. As a reminder God communicates to humanity today through His Son Jesus Christ (***Hebrews 1:2***), we communicate to God the Father through His son Jesus Christ through the unison of the Holy Spirit (***1Corinthians 12:3***). We learned that the Word of God represents both divine and spiritual power, and that it is through the power of the Word of God that humanity is saved from the penalty of death (***1Corinthians 1:18***). As a result the Word of God brings humanity into fellowship with God, this is known as salvation. We also learned how to discern for ourselves the spiritual voice of God from the spiritual voice of this world (***1John 4:1-3***). From a study standpoint, we have reached the place where we start to see and feel the results or manifestation of what we have heard from God, what we have said to God, what we have learned from His true Word, and that God grants all human being the free will to make their own decisions. Today we will consider how all that we have learned effects our daily decisions, which are greatly influenced by the evil spiritual powers of this world. The reason that all of the above is so important to each of us personally is that there are consequences to every decision that we make. In many cases the consequences of our decisions have a negative or harmful impact on our daily life. Our challenge as children of God is to do our best to make decisions that minimize or eliminate negative and harmful results. Negative consequences effect our relationship with God. When we give in and make decisions based on the influence of this world, the consequences or results of these decisions separate us from God. The Word of God tells us that we will receive the wrath of God as consequences for the ungodly decisions we make in life. However, the most severe consequence of bad decisions which result in sin is eternal death, and the only way to avoid this eternal death is by the redeeming quality of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

(According to the Bible Bad decisions against God can bring about: Guilt, shame, fear, eternal separation from God, spiritual death, rejection of God, and the loss of physical life.)

- **Galatians 6:7-8** (7) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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We have spent considerable time studying the Word of God, learning each week increasingly more about God, who He is, His ways, and what He requires from His creation. As a result each of us has been forewarned about worldly influence, so we should not be caught off guard or surprised by the ways of the devil.

- **2Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

The prince of darkness of this world uses false teachers to influence those that will give an ear to doctrine that is contrary to the Word of God. The Word of God tells us to resist these people, not to support them financially nor allow them to be in your homes. If we embrace them, and support their false doctrine we become participants of their evil ways.

- **2John 1:7-11** (7) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (9) Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (10) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: (11) For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

In our journey in this life we are all going to make some choices or decisions that are contrary to God's Will. If we will humble ourselves and come to God with a sincere and remorseful spirit, God will always forgive us of our transgressions (sin). However we should not provoke God by committing the same sin over and over, because it is no longer a mistake but rather a lifestyle. If a person is truly reborn of the spirit of God, they will do their best to live a life that conforms to the character God.

- **1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **1John 3:9** Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.