

Consequences

Consequences are results that follow our choices in life. The word consists of the prefix “*con*”. This means “*with*”. The word conscience refers to the internal judge *within* us. It is at peace when we act *with* our *knowledge* (*science*), but is made uncomfortable when we violate what we believe is right.

The root word “*sequence*” refers to that which *follows*. A short story contains a *sequence* of events. One thing happens and then another event *follows*. A movie *sequel* is one that *follows* the original motion picture. So a consequence is that which ***follows with*** a decision we make or a behavior we have engaged in.

The wise person will consider the consequences of a choice or action before he engages in it. What will *follow* if I marry this person? Where will I end up if I take this road? What will happen to my money if I invest in this venture? Choices should not be made impulsively. We should not hit someone because we got mad, steal something because we wanted it, or sleep with someone because we lusted. Each choice should be made with consideration of what *follows* after the immediate act.

Heaven and Hell are the ultimate consequences of life. God reveals them to us in His word to help us make proper choices in life. He wants us to make informed decisions. He told Adam *with* the first rule (*not to eat*) that a consequence would *follow* for violation (*surely die*). Today men teach that everyone goes to Heaven, and that Hell does not exist. This allows them to live sinfully without fear of consequences. They have influenced man to give in to his impulses *with* no fear of what *follows*.

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

January 22, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Announcements

Lavena remains home with two broken ribs. Elizabeth has also been ill recently. Mary Allen continues her battle with cancer as does Jill. Keep all of these and our shut-ins in your prayers and visits.

This evening’s service at 5:00 will be our extended singing service. Bring your voices to sing praise to God for His goodness.

Next Sunday night is the fifth Sunday. Dusty has volunteered to preach the evening lesson.

Pray for our married couples. Even though we feel certain marriages are made in heaven they must still be maintained on earth. Let us work at making our homes what God would have them to be. Let us encourage one another in our journey toward heaven. God bless our homes.

**“...Be not
conformed to
this world...”**

Rom. 12:1

“I Want My Freedom!”

Ron Roberts

Although we talk a great deal about freedom and liberty in the United States many of us do not really understand it. There is no such thing as complete freedom. The liberty we have as a nation came at the cost of war. It was not free. To maintain the nation we need to form laws that must be obeyed. We will lose our limited freedom and be put in jail if we violate these laws. Women have the freedom to choose to murder their unborn babies, but no one tells them about the trauma that will overcome them in the future. They will not be free from the dread of their decisions and the “*what if’s*” that haunt them every time they see a child and parent enjoying their time and love together.

Men resist religion and morals. They want the freedom to choose to drink, take drugs, commit fornication, and so on. What they do not realize is that they are choosing to become enslaved by sin. Rom 6:16 asks, “*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*” We may begin choosing sin, but ultimately sin will choose us. We will be imprisoned by the lusts and the behavior that fulfills those lusts. The end of such behavior is death. We will either serve sin or God. There is no freedom. There is no choice we can make that will not bring consequences.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”

Jesus offers an invitation to those who toil and are heavily burdened. This burden is from sin, guilt, lusts, and the improper choices we have made. We regret the decisions we have made with the free will that God has given us. Our selections in life have brought us pain and misery and we desire a way of escape. We long for rest from our labors.

Jesus offers us rest from the burden of sin, but understand He is not offering us total freedom. He is not saying you can wash your sins away at baptism and then you are free to do whatever you want. With the choice of Jesus comes certain obligations. Did you notice that?

Our Lord refers to taking His *yoke* upon us. A *yoke* is the harness type structure that was placed upon a pair of oxen so they could pull a cart. The *yoke* is a device of restriction and limitation. Although the *yoke is easy* and the *burden* we pull in the cart is *light*, they are still burdens and yokes. There is no total freedom.

We are given the responsibility to *learn* of Him. A disciple was a student who learned about a Master with the intent to imitate Him. Our Lord tells us when we *learn* of Him we will see that He is *meek and lowly in heart*. These character traits are what we will imitate. It is not an arrogant self serving agenda. We are not relieved of the burden of sin so that we can take on another load of lusts. We have a different type of burden. We are now disciples of Jesus. We make His choices. We follow His example. We surrender all aspects of our lives that are contrary to His example and teachings.

Some will look at the obligations of Christianity: attendance, giving contributions, Bible study, prayer, modest dress, tongue control, and such; and feel these are heavy burdens to bear. Actually, the burden of sin and guilt is much heavier. The load increases when we try to walk with one foot in the world and one foot in the church causing an imbalanced yoke. It is terribly difficult. The easiest thing to do is to give yourself completely to Christ.

We are free to eat what we please, but we will be burdened with weight problems. We are free to drink alcohol, but we will lose our ability to discern right from wrong. We are free to drive through red lights, but we will be fined for doing so. We are free to cheat on our wife and lose our marriage, to neglect our kids and lose their love, or to take drugs and lose our lives. There are consequences to our choices. Serving righteousness will lead to eternal life. You choose your burden.