

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Consequences

"Everybody, soon or late, sits down to a banquet of consequences." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his choices." – Alfred A. Montapert

"Consequences are unpitying." – George Elliot

"Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things, I am tempted to think there are no little things." – Bruce Barton

"There is no act, however trivial, but has its train of consequences." – Samuel Smiles

It is obvious that no matter what we do in life, there are going to be consequences. Defined, the word means, "a result or effect of an action or condition." For example, he wrecked his car because he was intoxicated. Or, she is in prison because she shot her husband, even though he was known to be abusive.

The Bible does indeed tell us that we can be forgiven of our sins. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). Even though one can be forgiven, it cannot erase the consequences of that sin.

The late Jeffrey Dahmer is a good example to explain this. He committed horrific acts against humanity. The scope of his sin was staggering. And even though he obeyed the Gospel while in prison, and was forgiven of all of his sins, he still had to pay the price for his crimes. Although killed while behind bars, he likely would have eventually been put to death by the state for his crimes. Forgiveness does not take away the consequences or penalties for sins.

Sometimes in life we suffer because of things we have done. People who have abused drugs have come to regret it later in life because of the consequences of having taken them. For what was perceived to be a time of fun, came back later to haunt those who were addicts. Or what of mothers who take drugs while pregnant only to have a child born with a defect. It is certainly not the child's fault, but it is a consequence of what a mother has done.

People in the world of boxing understand consequences all too well. Mohammed Ali developed Parkinson's as a result of his time in the ring. The pounding of his head led to a very unfortunate consequence.

We can indeed preach that through Christ there is forgiveness of sins. But people need to know and understand that just because they have been forgiven, it does not negate what comes as a result of what they have done.