

Consequences of Your Choices

Bill Elliott
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

God gives us free will. We can choose our way of life. He does not force us to choose Him. Nevertheless, He warns us that there will be positive *consequences if* we do and negative *consequences if* we do not. Still, many either do not know Him or do not choose Him.

It has been said that *if* is the biggest word in the English language. A *consequence will* result that is based on a condition set forth. God has promised blessings *if* we obey His will. He has promised curses *if* we do not. To physical Israel He said:

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known." (Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

God knew what Israel's choices would be. He told them in advance what would happen *if* they made the choices He already knew they would make. He knows what our choices will be as well.

"So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you." (Deuteronomy 30:1-3)

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (Deut 30:19-20)

There are *consequences* to our choices. They are either good or bad, depending on the choice. Israel's choices and the resulting destruction are recorded in 2 Kings 17. This stands as a clear warning for us both as individuals and collectively as His church, the spiritual Israel of the New Covenant. There will be *consequences* to the choices we make, both as individuals and as congregations. *If* you don't believe the warnings, and you make the choices that displease God, the *consequences* will be most unpleasant, irreversible, and eternal.