

Choices, Deeds, Consequences

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I. The speaking voice telling us to consider our ways.

A. Organized human society is against this.

B. The Holy Spirit tells us to do this.

C. Of all things we consider it is important to consider our ways.

1. Our moral ways.

2. The most important avenue of study.

3. Not others' ways, but our own.

a. The Pharisees were particularly good at this.

b. They judged others, and not themselves.

II. Consider the law of choices and consequences.

A. Every act, thing, and utterance is related to the past and the future.

1. It is the consequence (the effect) of something.

2. It is the cause (it effects) of something else.

B. Everything has consequences in something else.

1. The most casual utterance today was the result of a casual choice yesterday.

2. The choice of today will result in the actions of tomorrow.

C. Consequences and acts have dual importance.

1. Our choices have consequences in our moral structure either for good or evil.

a. It is important that we are accountable for our acts.

b. What we are will determine our destiny.

1) Heaven does not take foulness in.

2) The act of receiving Christ begins the process of righteousness.

3) We cannot get into heaven without righteousness.

- a) He came to call sinners, not the righteous.
- b) But He came to make the sinners righteous.
- c) No man by his righteousness will be saved.
- d) But apart from Christ's righteousness in a man, no man will be saved.

2. Our choices have consequences in what they do to others.

D. The fool.

- 1. A man who acts without regard to his education.
- 2. The difference is not a mental one but a moral one.

E. The wise man.

- 1. The man who acts with an eye to consequences.
- 2. The example of the man who overfilled his storehouses. (Luke 12)
- 3. It is a heresy to say that God hates the righteous man and loves the company of fools.

F. That we shall choose has already been decided, but the choice has been left to us.

- 1. We are free moral agents.
 - a. If a man cannot sin, he cannot be holy. And if he cannot be free, he cannot be holy.
 - b. Holiness has to do with a choice.
- 2. Nobody ever chose death; they chose the path that led to death.
 - a. The drunk driver never wanted to die, but he wanted to drink and show off.
 - b. Cities do not choose to die, they just choose the path that leads them to rot and die.
- 3. Nobody ever chose life just the same, they chose the path that led to life.
 - a. They repudiated death.
 - b. We make the right choice by starting with repentance.

G. We have to answer for ourselves.

- 1. Judas had to answer for himself.

2. Our associates and companions will not be able to help us in the end.
3. We are being called to put away our wicked ways and to please God.

Application questions.

1. What two kinds of relationships do choices and consequences have? How do they explain our character?

2. Why is it important to realize our free will?

3. The speaker asks: are you the person today that you thought you would be, yesterday? Are you? What can you do today to progress towards the person you want to be tomorrow?
