

# CAN ONE ESCAPE CONSEQUENCES?

By Keith Greer

Often times it seems that justice is a thing of the past. So many times in our society men seem to escape the consequences of their actions. Our court system leaves much to be desired: crowded prisons, loopholes in the law, fancy lawyers, and a law that the teeth have been removed! Yet, does one really ever escape the consequences of their actions?

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” {Galatians 6:7,8} This is an eternal truth that our God has promised. While it often takes time to occur, rest assured it will happen! Let me give a few examples to consider.

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” {Hebrews 13:4} When one goes outside of the marriage covenant to satisfy the sexual desire God gave both men and women—trouble is waiting at the door. Why does our nation have so many abortions? Why are there more single mothers now than in any time in our country’s history? Why do we have the Aids epidemic sweeping the world? Adultery has led to many broken homes, reputations in ruin, morals destroyed, and for what? A few stolen moments of pleasure! Someone will chime it, “it didn’t happen to me!” Did they get away with it? No, one must still give an account to God at the end.

Just ask any drunk, drug addict, or compulsive gambler their greatest mistake. Answers are always the same—the first, drink, the first drug and the first bet I ever made. We heard those try to defend their choices: **“One drink won’t hurt.” “This drug is safe everyone is using it.” “Dropping one quarter in a slot machine can’t hurt.”** Truth of the matter is one can never become an addict if they never start down that path!

“Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?” {Proverbs 6:27,28} When one takes the risk of “crossing the line” they must accept all the ramifications that come with that decision. Sometimes it’s much more than we can pay or want to pay!

Many Christians believe that they can dabble in the world and sin and somehow come out untouched by the experience. Such sentiments are wishful thinking.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

“For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.” (Revelation 18:5,6) Rome, the nation punishing and persecuting God’s children, would be given exactly what she deserved in time. True, they thought it would never happen. Alas, history tells the final end of that great empire. God did have the final say!

When will we ever learn that truth will always prevail and one will “reap what has been sowed.” God gave mankind the blessing of being free moral agents. We make the decisions which decide the direction our lives will take. Sadly, those choices are not always given careful and prayerful consideration of the consequences that will truly follow.

My hope and prayer is that each of us would give serious thought to the choices we make in our lives. Learn by the experiences of others – especially those who made the wrong choices. Can we escape the consequences of our actions? What do you think? \*\*\*