

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

August 26, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Unintended Consequences Robert Johnson

Unintended consequences are outcomes that are not the ones intended by a purposeful action. While the outcome could be positive in nature, typically it refers to a negative, unexpected disadvantage occurring, in addition to the desired effect. For example, following an intense lobbying effort by big banks to address rising loan defaults, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 2005, which made it costlier for people to declare bankruptcy. Yet, that legislation may have led to more — not fewer — loan defaults, especially defaults on home mortgages.

There can be unintended consequences spiritually as well. An example of this is found in Numbers 13-14. Of the 12 Israelite spies sent into Canaan to bring word of the abundance the land possessed, only 2 encouraged the people to obey the Lord — Joshua and Caleb. The other 10 were fearful of the inhabitants of the land, and their words served to discourage the people from taking possession of it. While they effectively stopped Israel from going at that time, they didn't foresee what that would do to them. The result of Israel's rebellion against God brought 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it” (Num. 14:21-23). For those 10 spies, none of them could have imagined what God said regarding them. “And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD” (Num. 14:36-37).

God offers us His good will to bless us and to provide for us, physically and spiritually. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Like the Israelites of old, there are those who respond from their own desires instead of submitting to God's Word, believing God will still offer them all His blessings. The consequence of disobeying God, however, will not offer His blessings. The unintended consequence spiritually can be disastrous! Paul asked the Corinthians, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers: Week of 8/12/18

Contribution — \$2573

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes — 35
Sunday Worship* — 54
Wednesday Night — 30

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: Matthias
(Acts 1:26).

Q: What was the first plague that afflicted Egypt?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM: Underestimating Wickedness

- 1) What is the meaning of Psalm 58:3?
- 2) How does sin deceive us?
- 3) Can one continuously flirt with sin and escape unscathed?

PM: A Closer Look at Judges

- 1) What is the theme of the book of Judges?
- 2) What is the meaning of Judges 21:25?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Kenneth Hendrix — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Ryan & Lacey Smith (traveling on vacation this week) — Harold Myers (received a bad medical report recently)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- September 14-16 — Creation vs. Evolution Seminar with Dr. Brad Harrub — Let's make sure to invite as many as possible! Flyers are in the foyer!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — In between services today — (Soups, Salads, & Sandwiches)
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. (If you would like to help with a get-together, please let Chase know).

(Continued from page 1)

the kingdom of God?" (1 Cor. 6:9).

In reality, there should be no unintended consequences for the Christian, as God has revealed His will clearly and accurately in His Word. We may want to alter God's will to suit our sensibilities, but God clearly reveals what happens when we do so (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19). When we deliberately choose to reject what God has commanded in His Word, choosing our own desires instead, there will be consequences, as God has clearly revealed. One may have a convoluted yearning to get one's own way, but only submission to the revealed will of God in Scripture leads to eternal life. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Just as it takes knowing the will of God to obey the Gospel and receive forgiveness of sin, it takes knowing the will of God to live out the Gospel in everyday life. One is deceived to believe an ignorance of God's Word justifies substituting human desires in its place, and that God will provide His blessings anyway. Is there any reason to think that deliberately absenting oneself from the assembly pleases God? Is there any reason to think that not giving to God, but using one's financial resources to spend on oneself, shows God love? When we have all kinds of talents we use for personal benefits, but refuse to do so for the Lord, do we believe God thinks nothing of it? Will judgment really be a shocking revelation or a reminder that such choices never pleased the Father or honored the Son? Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33). We must examine our motives to ensure that the consequences of our ambitions and actions conform to God's Word. Here is where his blessings truly reside.

The Deceptive Nature of Sin
Chase Green

I was recently reminded of the following quote (author unknown): "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." This quote is so true!

We all struggle with sin. All of us have different things that we are susceptible to. Some things that are not enticing to some of us are the very things that entice others the most. But we all struggle with SOMETHING. Why does sin entice us so?

Whether we are talking about Adam & Eve succumbing to the forbidden fruit, or a man giving in to the lure of a seductress, a thief responding to his compulsion to steal, or a pathological liar coming up with yet another hoax, the bottom line is that sin is alluring. It is captivating. It is charming. It is presented as delectable, but it ends up being detestable.

The Bible says that sin is deceitful (see Heb. 3:13). But it doesn't stop there! That same verse also indicates that sin HARDENS, that is, it hardens hearts, to the point that the human heart becomes indifferent to the separation that sin causes between him and his God (Isa. 59:1-2). Paul spoke of those who had had their consciences "seared with a hot iron" (1 Tim. 4:2). When we allow ourselves to become so infatuated with sin that we no longer feel remorse, we have a major problem!

This is why so many today are acting the way that they do. It is why many people cannot even have a conversation without dropping curse words, innuendo, and gossip left and right. It is why society has taken such a casual view of sex outside of marriage. It is why society likes to pretend that there is such a thing as a "little white lie," when in actuality a lie is still a lie! It is why dishonesty rules the day, why one has to be very careful not to get ripped off, because "there's a crook around every corner." On and on we could go describing how sin rules the day in our society.

But it doesn't have to be that way! Sin can be contained. Sin can be resisted. Sin can be defeated! But we have to take it seriously. We have to fight it! We have to destroy it! In the words of Paul, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21)!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
Matthew 15:9

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com