

You Snooze...You Lose

Every culture has its idiomatic expressions and one of our modern idioms suggests, "If you snooze... you lose!" Snoozing has to do with not paying attention or being neglectful in some enterprise.

Neglect will cost you something, therefore "you lose." It may be surprising to some that this idiom has its spiritual applications and is suggested by a couple of statements from the pen of the apostle Paul.

"And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed." Ro-

mans 13:11

Paul is saying that if we are neglectful about the way we conduct ourselves, we could lose out on salvation. He is exhorting his brothers to wake up to the hour in which they live. It is the last hour and they are near salvation. But... if you snooze, you lose.

"For this reason many among you are weak and sick and a number sleep." 1 Corinthians 11:30

Here, Paul is trying to get the attention of Christians who were spiritually asleep, neglecting to do things the way God had com-

manded. They were not observing the Lord's Supper as it was intended, so they were bringing judgment upon themselves (v. 29). Thus, if you just go through the motions of God's worship, spiritually asleep, then... you snooze, but lose.

It's easy to fall asleep and neglect the things that God expects of us. Perhaps, knowing the consequence of our neglect will awaken us to the work at hand. As Paul said, "...it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep."

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Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

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Assembly Schedule

Sunday
Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

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NAVARRE MESSENGER

The Culture of No Consequences



Have you noticed the singular lack of consequences in almost every system of American culture? God's plan of behavior management for children (the rod of discipline Pro. 22:15) has been set aside by parents and schools. Athletes, stars and politicians are seen to break laws with impunity. Bad manners and rudeness are tolerated if one is popular or famous. Coaches throw chairs, athletes sling helmets, and parents attack other parents, all clear violations of team rules and rules of appropriate behavior. Yet, rarely are those actions held to account. Proverbs 19:19 tells us the truth: "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again." Priests and teachers have abused children without penalty. Presidents lie, congressmen take money, etc.

by David Hartsell

In the beginning, the Lord blessed man with a paradise garden to keep, trim, and enjoy. Only one prohibition was mentioned. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen.2:17). If they

ate they would lose their place in the garden and forfeit their right to the "tree of life." They would lose their lives and their special relationship with The Lord. This was the consequence. Sadly, they ate of the prohibited tree and paid the consequences.

Human beings require structure and discipline. Fortunately for us, our Creator planned for our growth and happiness by holding

us accountable. God is honest with us: sin brings death. The Word clarifies His expectations and holds us accountable. God is predictable, consistent, and fair. And aren't we thankful for that! The beauty queen and best player have the same consequence and reward as the rest of us. Moses, God's chosen leader, was held accountable for disobedience (Numbers 20). Samson, a judge chosen by God, maintained supernatural strength as long as he followed God's directions. However, God allowed Samson to suffer the consequences of foolish behavior: the Philistines cut his hair, blinded and imprisoned him. Ultimately Samson gained victory over himself and over his enemies; God did not abandon Samson but answered his prayer.

Obedience begins with the fear of consequences. God's people can-

not thrive if they accept the culture of no consequences. Churches grow numerically but not spiritually. Many are suffering from the lack of discipline among their members. Fornication, bar-hopping, gossip, and bitterness find their way into churches. Behavior that is plainly un-Christian is ignored while the "positive" is accentuated. By overlooking sin the consequences of sin are not seen or felt. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for this (1 Cor.5:1-5). They accepted an adulterer as a faithful brother. Paul told them to deliver him to Satan – to let him know where he was spiritually. They were not even to eat with him. How cruel! No! This is God's way of shocking the sinner into seeing the consequence of his sin.

Not all consequences are bad. In fact, the disciplining of the Corin-

thian adulterer caused him to repent and return to Christ. Paul urged the brethren to reaffirm their love to him (2 Cor.2:3-9). The renewal of Christian fellowship was crucial in helping this brother remain faithful. It remains the same today. We can not live without consequences. Some believe because God does not punish sin immediately He will not punish it at all. "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecc.8:11). This is a serious mistake. In this life we might evade many bad consequences. However, in judgment all will be made right. Everyone will stand before God to be judged based on the things we have done on earth (2 Cor.5:10). Don't buy into the idea of a culture with no consequences for there is no such place in existence. ~

Our Lord's Warning

By Ron Boatwright

Christ, who is all knowing, tells us that many people are going to be lost in eternity. In Matthew 7:13-14 He says, "Enter by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." According to the Bible the majority of people will be lost. We must take this warning seriously. The Lord says that only a few people will be saved.

How few can few be? In 1 Peter 3:20 (KJV) we read, "When once the longsuffering of God waited in

the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water." The conservative estimate of the number of people on the face of the earth in the days of Noah is two hundred million (200,000,000) people. But only eight (8) out of the estimated two hundred million (200,000,000) were saved. This is not very good odds. Even though the Bible says in 1 Peter 3:9 that the Lord is "not willing that any should perish," Jesus says in Matthew 7:13-14 concerning eternal life in Heaven that "there are few who find it." The vast majority of people will spend forever and ever in the eternal fires of Hell that will never be extin-

guished. Mankind cannot comprehend how horrible that Hell is going to be.

There are only two roads to eternity and everyone is on one or the other. If we miss Heaven, we will be thrown into the eternal fires of Hell forever. One of the saddest things about being thrown into Hell is the fact that it could have been avoided. The majority of people will be lost in spite of what the Lord has done. Hell is not what God does to us, but Hell is what one does to himself. A person who ends up in Hell is his own worst enemy and only has himself to blame. Let us make going to Heaven our number one priority in this life. ~

Town Fool Worship

We have heard of a man who says he would attend church services Sunday morning, even if the "town fool" should preach. He thinks it disgraceful that some are "preacher-crazy" and attend or stay home, depending upon who occupies the pulpit. Before you commend the man, read the next line.

He is equally provoked when some one urges him to be present on Wednesday night for Bible Study, for he says the Scriptures do not command the Wednesday night assembly.

Seems to me the poor Fellow is wrong on both counts; i.e., he misses the point concerning assembling with the saints, Sunday or Wednesday. It is true, we should not be "wed" to the preacher; but it is equally true that we should not be "wed" to a certain "assembly." We must be wed to Christ (II Corinthians 11:1-11). The "assembly" is not an end within itself—just "being there" or "doing five items" will accomplish little. One should not "go to church" because he wants to "go



to church" but because he wants to study God's word, praise God in song, in prayer, and in every way in keeping with His will. He loves his brethren and is anxious to join with them in the worship and work of the Lord. He eagerly, joyfully, freely gives of his means joining hands with his brethren to further the Lord's work. The Lord's Supper, on the Lord's Day, is a memorial gratefully shared with all the saints. A person with such an attitude seeks more opportunities to continue what he truly wants to do. He does not measure out worship grudgingly, watching the clock.

Hebrews 10:25 says, "not forsaking the assembling" — read it

carefully. Not "the assembly" but the act of coming together. This passage does not urge all to be present at a certain convocation, but exhorts us to recognize the importance of assembling with the saints. This applies to Wednesday as well as to Sunday; whether "the day approaching" be the destruction of Jerusalem or Judgment Day.

Acts 20:7 authorized the Lord's Supper upon the Lord's Day; no other day is designated. But the "oncer" heeds something worse than the "town-fool preacher." He has fooled himself. ~

By Robert Turner, taken from Plain Talk, February 1969