

Lesson Notes:

## **Truth or Consequences**

While God promises forgiveness for repented sin (**Colossians 1:14**) there are still consequences of sin. The Bible is filled with examples of suffering that people have endured as a result of failing to follow God's plan. In some instances we see complete disregard for God's commandments. In other cases, people may compromise their principles attempting to justify their actions based upon the example of others or upon socially and culturally accepted practice. Bottom line is, "your sins will find you out" and it is best to strive for the truth of Jesus.

## **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **Webster's Dictionary.** – Defines Truth as a state of being or a body of real things.
- 2) **Jesus said he is the "Truth".** – Jesus tells us in **John 14:6** and in the book of **Matthew** 29 times that he is the truth. In **John 18:37** Jesus tells Pilate that everyone that loves the truth listens to him.
- 3) **If we turn from the truth it can have dire consequences –**
  - a) **When the nation of Israel turned from the truth** – When the 10 scouts returned to the camp of Israel 8 were afraid of taking the promise land and started a revolt against Moses. As a result of their unfaithfulness God promised Moses in **Numbers 14:26-38** that none would enter the promise land that had rejected his commandment to take the land.
  - b) **Sodom and Gomorrah** – We see in **Genesis 19:1-29** that with the exception of Lot and his daughters all inhabitants in Sodom and Gomorrah were completely destroyed along with the 2 cities.
  - c) **Cain's Unholy sacrifice** – As a result of Cain's murder of Abel God told Cain in **Genesis 4:10 - 12** that he was doomed to wander aimlessly the remainder of his life.
  - d) **David and Bathsheba** - In **2 Samuel 12:13-17** we see the death of David's son that he fathered through Bathsheba as a result of his murder and adultery.
  - e) **Absalom's rebellion** – In **2 Samuel 18:33** David loved his son Absalom above all of his sons and even though Absalom's death was a result of his own sin and rebellion David wept bitterly over the loss of his beloved son Absalom. Therefore, Absalom's rebellion not only cost him his life but it caused great sorrow to those that loved him most.
- 4) **What about us – If we stray from the truth of Jesus –**
  - a) **We will lose God's Direction & Purpose** – Paul tells us in **Romans 8:28** that God has a purpose for all that love him and are called according to his purpose. If

we fail to love him and demonstrate our love through obedience than we forfeit God's direction for our lives.

- b) **We will lose out on God's Blessings** – David tells us in **Psalm 37:4-5** that if we commit our ways to the Lord he will give us the desires of our heart. I can't imagine trading the desires of my heart for sin and disobedience.
- c) **We will be banished to the bottomless pit** – Jesus tells us in the parable of the sheep and goats in **Matthew 25:31-41** that the unrighteous will be banished with Satan and the unholy angels to the bottomless pit.
- d) **We will face the White Throne Judgment** – John describes the White Throne Judgment in **Revelation 20:11-15** which is reserved for the unrighteous.