

The Consequences That Follow

by Bill Crews

If we profess certain convictions, or take certain positions, there are inevitable consequences that must follow. For example, Jesus said, **“If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments”** (Jn. 14:15). The *consequence* that will follow loving Jesus is that we will then *keep* His commandments. If we do not keep His commandments, we do not really love Him. Compare 2 John 6: *“And this is love, that we should walk after his commandments.”* Similarly, Jesus said, *“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”* (Luke 6:46). It does no good to call Him **Lord** if we are not going to obey His commandments; if we *really believe Him to be our Lord, we will obey His commandments*. These thoughts bring to mind the following observations:

1. If we really believe in God, we will reverence Him and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
2. If we really believe the Bible to be the word of God, we will respect it, study it and live by it (2 Timothy 3:14-17).
3. If we really believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we will be grateful for His sacrifice, acknowledge His authority and do His will (Luke 6:46; Colossians 3:17).
4. If we really believe that spiritual life is more important than physical life, that the soul is more important than the body, that the things that are above are more important than the things of this earth, we will show it in the lives that we live (Colossians 3:1-2; John 6:27; Matthew 6:19-20).
5. If we really believe that each person will have to stand before the Son of God in the judgment and give an account of the life he has lived in the body, we will not waste a moment in getting ready for that judgment (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:30-31).
6. If we really believe that every accountable person is, by the life he is now living, headed toward eternal life in heaven or eternal punishment in hell, we will allow nothing keep us from walking in the way that leads to life and will at all costs avoid the way that leads to rejection and punishment (John 5:28-29; Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 20:11-15). Please think about these things — for your soul’s sake!

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