

Ignoring Warnings

- Many people ignore the curve ahead signs going 15-20 mph faster without any harm.
- Others ignore speed limits entirely or drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Some ignore warnings of doctors about exercise, lowering cholesterol, or blood pressure.
- They reason not all are harmed by such behavior.
- *“It won’t happen to me.”*

Scripture Reveals Exceptions

- *I returned and saw under the sun that — The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. Eccl. 9:11*
- These are exceptions, and they happen often enough “*under the sun*” that multitudes can ignore sound wisdom and still make it work.
- Some will ignore all sound wisdom and still live to be 100.

Ignore ... NO Consequences

- Moral decisions have similar outcomes on earth
- *There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. Eccl. 8:14*
- There is no tangible difference in the outcome of one's physical life if they keep or if they ignore the warnings in the Scriptures.
- Many wicked are wealthy and healthy their entire life.

Ignore ... No Consequences

- *All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; To the good, the clean, and the unclean; To him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath. 3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.*
Eccl. 9:2-4
- In this life, no matter what physical outcomes might be, they come alike to all. You can ignore all the commands in the Scriptures and nothing happens

Consequences of Madness – The Wicked

- *Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. 7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. Ps. 73:7*

Consequences of Madness – The Wicked

- *8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them. 11 And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches. Ps 73:1-12*

Consequences of Madness – Righteous

- *13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus, "Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this ,It was too painful for me — 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. ... 21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Ps 73:13-26*

Returning to Sanity

- *But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, 17 Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you? 18 When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers. 19 You give your mouth to evil, 19 You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. 20 You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. 21 These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. Ps 50:19-21*

Returning to Sanity

- If it all ended in physical death, then it would not make any difference.
- *If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” 1Cor. 15:32*
- **BUT THE DEAD DO RISE!**
- *Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:30-31*

Regardless of Outcome Here God's Warnings Cannot be Ignored

- *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 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. Gal. 6:7-8*
- While doctors are mocked, scorned and ignored by many with no consequences in this life...
- You can't do that with God! Everything God reveals in the spiritual realm is absolute!
- There are no exceptions!

Look at Solomon

- God gave a warning and he treated it like a doctor's warning. Failed to heed:
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-8*
- All his wisdom and inspiration could not change the outcome when he ignored God's warning and counsel.

A Specific Command for Kings

● *15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; ... 17 Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. 18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, Deut 17:16-20*

Solomon Ignored this warning/command

- *But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites — 2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 1 Kings 11:1-3*

Solomon's Terrible Fall

- *For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.*
1 Kings 11:4-6

The Full Extent of His Wickedness

- *Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 1 Kings 11:7-8*

The Full Extent of His Wickedness

- *9 So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded. 1 Kings 11:9-10*

This was a tragic story!

- If Solomon with all his wisdom, inspiration, devotion, faith and conviction could not avoid the fate that God warned would surely happen, neither can we.
- James asked those he was writing, and also ignored Scripture in the same way a very important question
- *“Do you think that the Scripture speaks in vain (to no purpose).” (Jas. 4:5).*

The Line We Cross

- If we read a warning in Scripture and think it won't happen to us or we are strong or wise enough to avert what God warned of, we are acting like that Scripture speaks in vain.
- *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 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.” Gal. 6:7-8*

We must not be deceived.

- We only get one chance at this life and the hope of everlasting life.
- When a passage or sermon points out such things, we ignore it to our peril.

Commands No One Can Ignore

if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24

unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. Lk. 13:5

if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9-10

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be saved; Mk. 16:15-16

Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Ats 2:38

If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.