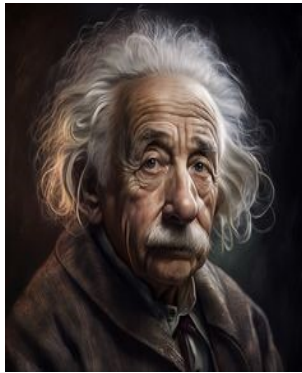


The Bulwark

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

CONSEQUENCES

Albert Einstein is quoted as having said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." This quote was made when tensions were escalating between the world's super powers; shortly after the end of World War II and the dawn of the "Cold War". Einstein's statement brought a clear focus on the consequences, whether intended or unintended, should any side make the decision to engage in nuclear warfare. The end result would be devastating.



It is unfortunate that we don't always look ahead and consider the consequences of decisions with such precision. It is understood that oft times it is difficult to foresee the full ramifications of the choices we make. Likewise, it should be noted that we are guilty of allowing emotion to take precedence and thinking only in the moment. Such was the case with Esau, "who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected..." (Hebrews 12:16b-17) The bottom line that must be kept in mind is that decisions as well as actions have consequences. Esau realized that too late.

Earlier in the book of Hebrews, the

author made note of Moses and his careful consideration of possible consequences for his decisions. "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." (Hebrews 11:24-26) What an amazing contrast between Esau and Moses. On one hand consideration of consequences (Moses) and the other the unintended consequences (Esau).

The choice Moses had to make couldn't have been easy. He had before him all the trappings of a son of royalty. He knew the children of Israel were treated with disdain and he would face hardship. Regardless, he opted to embrace a proper relationship with God, looking forward to something better. He did not make his decision before factoring in consequences, both positive and negative.

"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2Timothy 3:12) A rather ominous statement, but one that must be taken into account by any who seek to follow Christ. In Matthew

the tenth chapter, Jesus spells out with crystal clarity that a disciple of His would have to be truly willing to "count the cost". "He who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." (v. 38)

"For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison." (2Corinthians 4:17). Each one needs to look ahead and awaken to the fact that the negative consequences of life, whether intended or unintended, must not deter us from the realization of the prize that awaits for those that have loved His appearing (2Timothy 4:8) (wbe)



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