

Trying to Avoid the Inevitable
by Hendrik Joubert

So, like many others you prefer not to talk about spiritual matters – even though it is the most important question one may consider? Because of the suggested dire consequences, even one who does not believe in God, has to objectively consider the matter. The thought of immortality is appealing, and it has often been dealt with on a fictitious level, yet eternity remains a concept we humans have difficulty grasping. To make a mistake in this regard is unthinkable. The words of the Lord Jesus Christ: These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. Matthew 25:46.

Have you considered the reasons why you avoid this extremely important subject? Is it perhaps because you find the Bible intruding and some of the subjects contained therein rather uncomfortable to handle? Is it because a serious look would make you feel uneasy about your way of life? Do you object to what some consider the sexually discriminating statements in the Bible? Do you practice sins which are openly condemned in Scriptures? For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in lustful passion,... 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Does this bother you, or have you made the changes to God's word to make you feel comfortable? For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,... 2 Timothy 4:3

Do you find yourself accepting the benefits, but rejecting the responsibilities communicated through the word of God? Do you prefer to focus on the love and grace of God rather than considering the responsibilities in a covenant relationship? Have you decided to believe in God, but only in the good side? The side which mentions all the benefits for those who choose to believe in Him – and you choose to ignore the negative side that talks about obedience to His will – actually demonstrating that you believe in Him? Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. Romans 11:22. What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? James 2:14.

Do you find comfort in ignoring some of what the Bible says by criticizing the reliability of the Scriptures? Is it the positive things which seem to be more reliably passed on than the condemnation of popular human actions? How selective are you in deciding what is valid, and what not? Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Luke 21:33.

Do you escape the feelings of guilt by saying that the teachings and concepts contained in God's word are rather outdated and frankly a little backwards? What does technology have to do with right and wrong in the eyes of the Creator? The sins remain the same even if we commit them differently, or in different places. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1 Peter 1:14-16

Do you avoid looking at, as well as talking about the Scriptures because you believe ignorance will be a valid excuse – God will not punish you for what you did not know? So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. Ephesians 4:17-19

We tend to work at avoiding the inevitable – often with serious consequences. There are many questions we may have to settle in our life time, but none as important as the one which would determine our eternal destination. Many who have a superficial relationship with Christ will learn too late that they are lost. Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" ²³ "And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS." Matthew 7:21-23.

Someone once said that regret is a good thing, but always comes too late. There is an appointment we all have to keep: And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment Hebrews 9:27