

# A Tragic Choice

In this unpredictable world in which we live, there is a great fear that some unscrupulous scientist or rogue nation will unleash a weapon of mass destruction and lay waste to our planet. As tragic and devastating as such a possibility would be, there are destructive realities that are taking place all around us that are seen as quite normal. The end result of these scenarios is a future that is even more horrifying and bleak than any post-apocalyptic movie . . . and has no end to it. Yet most folks are seemingly unaware that such a sequence of events is playing out before our very eyes all over this world.



This deadly and destructive narrative is not new but goes back to the dawn of time. According to the Bible mankind was made in the image of God and given the opportunity to choose between good and evil. An all-wise, all-loving God created us with a free will that has the liberty to decide between various choices. This freedom gives us the capability for moral greatness or terrible wickedness. The Lord has ordered this universe to run on the principles of holiness, truth, and righteousness. He is perfectly comfortable with such a universe because there is no flaw in His character and He is the embodiment of holiness and truth. The 10 commandments best sum up His laws for mankind and they are binding upon each and every one of us. Each person comes into this life with a conscience which is placed in us to guide us in the direction of righteous living.

Without exception, people begin to defile their conscience at an early age. There is a great sense of guilt at first, but as sin becomes “natural”, the conscience hardens and sinful choices become a way of life. The existence of a conscience makes us responsible for our actions. People all over the world steal, swear,



murder, commit adultery, covet, and break the rest of the commandments. They seem to suffer no ill effects. The silence of God is taken as a sign of His reluctant acceptance of their wild ways. Though it may seem like God is a million miles away, the decision to do wrong comes with disastrous consequences. Proverbs 13:15 says “the way of the transgressor is hard.” Oftentimes even in this life “your sin will find you out” Numbers 32:23. Though the thought of mass destruction is alarming enough, the reality is that life on this earth is very short compared to eternity. The choice of a human being to do what they know to be wrong is a cataclysmic decision with eternal repercussions. Payday doesn’t always come on Saturday night after a wild time at the bar. But come it will and must. “The wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23. Our good works will not outweigh our bad works. Even one willful choice disqualifies us from heaven and gives us a one way ticket to a place called Hell.



Yet there is hope! A true sorrow for our sinful deeds that leads us to a place of genuine repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus will bring us into what the New Testament calls the new birth. This born again experience breaks the power of sin in our lives and brings us into a dynamic relationship with God. The end of such a transformed life is an eternity in Heaven with God . . . and far from suicide bombers and mass destruction of any kind.

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