

Intro.

- A. Have you ever felt like everything was closing in on you, & you wished that somehow you could *escape*.
 - 1. There are so many demands made on your time & resources.
 - 2. We are relieved to be able to escape (even momentarily) from some of those pressures.
- B. However, we must realize there are some things we **cannot escape**, & we need to study about those things.

Discuss.I. EXERTING AN INFLUENCE.

- A. **Rom. 14:7** *For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.*
- B. Each and every one of us are an example that others are observing, and may well be imitating.
 - 1. Our example will certainly be a good one, or bad.
 - 2. We cannot escape exerting influence upon all those with whom we come into contact.
 - 3. **What kind of influence do you normally have on other?**

II. SELF-ACCOUNTABILITY.

- A. We live in a society that tries its hardest to disassociate itself from accepting personal responsibility.
 - 1. We blame many things on our genes: *alcohol problems, adultery, homosexuality, lying, laziness...*
 - 2. If genetics is not to blame, then it’s our environment & society.
- B. It is challenging to come to grips with the fact that we will be personally accountable before God.
 - 1. **Rom. 14:12** *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*
 - 2. As we let our light shine **Mat. 5:16** we need to remember that we will be held accountable!

III. CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.

- A. “*Truth or Consequences*” was that name of a T.V. game show when I was a young boy.
 - 1. Do kids still play “*Truth or Dare*”? a price to pay.
 - 2. The prevailing thought behind these games is that there are consequences to not telling the truth ☞☜
- B. Think about how God explained this very real concept.
 - 1. In **Rom. 6:23**. (Sin had its consequences: Moses died on Nebo **Deut 34**; David couldn’t build temple **2 Chron. 6:8-9**)
 - 2. **Gal. 6:7-8** *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 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.*

IV. APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH.

- A. *...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,* (**Heb. 9:27**)
 - 1. God said that death is an appointment (i.e., death is very much a reality).
 - 2. Some mistakenly suppose that God has designated a particular time & place of your death – predestined.
- B. **Ecc 9:5** *For the living know that they will die;*
 - 1. Psalmist ask the Lord to *...teach us to number our days,* **Ps. 90:12** (i.e., make them count)
 - 2. **Ps. 37:18** *The LORD knows the days of the upright...*

V. PERSONAL DECISION ABOUT CHRIST.

- A. Every accountable person (understanding diff. in right & wrong) makes a decision about obeying Christ.
 - 1. It’s strange, scary, & true -- a lot of people imagine they can opt not to follow Him, but not oppose Him.
 - 2. If we choose not to become a Christian, we have in essence said NO to the only one who can save us.
- B. Jesus said, *He that is not with me is against me...*, **Matt. 12:30** **Where does He see you right now?**

Concl.

VI. ETERNAL VERDICT OF GOD.

- A. At the Judgment Day, when time is forever past, 1 of 2 verdicts will be declared for me & you:
1. **Matt. 25:46** - *An these will go away into everlasting judgment, but the righteous into eternal life.*
 2. **Matt. 25:21-30**
 - a. *Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord*
 - b. *You wicked & lazy servant...cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness.
There will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.*
 3. Mt. 7:21 – 23
 - a. *Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*
 - b. (To those who were religious, but did not obey) He will say...*I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*
- B. After those verdicts are given, there will be no escaping it! Our destiny will be fixed.
1. Now is the only time that you know for sure that you have.
 2. Have you prepared your life to live with Christ in the eternal life?
 3. There is only one way to be ready...