

“Fallout” – the consequences of our decisions

“Your mission, should you choose to accept it. I wonder, did you ever choose not to? The end you've always feared is coming. And the blood will be on your hands. The fallout of all your good intentions.”

So begins the trailer for last summer’s **Mission Impossible** film. If you have not seen it, I can heartily recommend it – good story and character development, subtle nods to previous films in the franchise and some truly jaw-dropping stunts.

But in our own lives we know there are consequences for the decisions we take...

Bad Decisions

We understand this most clearly when we consider poor choices. Smoking for example damages your lungs and will earn pupils a Saturday detention if they are caught smoking at school.

Cheating in tests (it is assessment fortnight at the moment) is never good. At university you can lose your degree if you are caught cheating.

Seann Walsh discovered this past week that there is fallout if you kiss a woman who is not your girlfriend – he was “dumped” and his continued participation in Strictly Come Dancing is now in doubt.

Good Intentions

There are negative consequences for seemingly well-intentioned acts. We think telling a white lie is ok – a friend has a bad haircut, asks you about it and you say “it’s good!” so as not to hurt their feelings. But those who tell white lies soon become colour blind – they face the risk telling more or bigger lies – and they may develop a reputation as someone who cannot be trusted.

Ignoring the Evidence

There is a third, and most serious area of fallout for decisions we take:

*“The wrath of God is being revealed against all the godlessness and wickedness of people... ..what may be known about God is plain, because God has made it plain. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” **Romans 1:18-20***

There is plenty of evidence to convince us that God is real. The problem is that we live in an age, with a media that is saturated with people who tell us that God does not exist; that all the evidence is to the contrary. The fallout of *that* is that many do not bother to investigate for themselves. But consider for a moment the precision which our solar system, indeed the universe, has been put together – it is no accident. The beauty of our world, see most colourfully at this time of year must be the work of an artist, and the complexity of even a single living cell is so great it cried out “design!”. There is a god.

Your mission (if I may), should you choose to accept it, is to investigate, ask the tough questions, find out if the evidence for God’s existence really does stack up. The fallout of not doing is potentially very great.

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