

## Destruction Or Reward

Ponder: What is the obvious choice?

Scripture: "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded" (Prov. 13:13, NKJV).

Would you rather be destroyed or rewarded? That's what I call a "Duh!" question. Any rational person sees the sensible answer immediately.

Solomon set "the word" and "the commandment" as parallel expressions. Clearly, he has the word (commandment) of God in mind. Over the past few decades, despising the Bible has become practically normal in our culture, whereas those who truly fear (respect, revere) God's commandments comprise a shrinking minority. A warning about the eternal destruction awaiting the disobedient will likely be met with eye-rolls and scoffing.

Most people understand the importance of following human instructions but fail to make any application to God's commands. Suppose I buy a brand new car. The owner's manual says to put 5W20 motor oil in the crankcase and 87 octane gasoline in the fuel tank. But I tell the people at the dealership, "It's my car, and I'll do as I please with it. Nobody tells me what to do! I'm going to put sulfuric acid in the fuel tank, and here's my jug of antifreeze I'm going to pour into the crankcase." In sheer horror they cry out, "Oh no! Acid goes in the battery and antifreeze in the radiator! If you do what the owner's manual says, your car will last a long time; but what you're about to do will destroy it!" Nevertheless, I insist that it's my car, not theirs, so I will do whatever I please.

Everyone knows such behavior would be the height of absurdity. Yet how much more ridiculous is it to say, in essence, "I don't care what the Bible says; it's my life and I'll do as I please"? By the way, that applies to more than just Biblical moral standards. What about the way of salvation? What about the manner of worship? God has spoken! Do you respect His word?

"I'll do as I please" is a ticket to destruction. Don't go there!

Hymn: "Trust And Obey"

Prayer: Righteous Father, please forgive us for being self-willed. Help us to revere You and show it by respecting Your word and submitting ourselves to it. In Jesus' name, Amen.