**NOT BY ACCIDENT**

Accidents do happen, and many of those things called accidents are actually just that….complete accidents and only accidental. However, that term is used way too often for something that is simply not such, not accidental at all. However, since at times man only sees in the moment, what may have contributed significantly much earlier is forgotten, not considered, or flat out ignored.

Years ago my father preached a sermon called “The Things That Happen.” In that great lesson he showed how often in scripture something terrible that took place could have been avoided but someone had a short-term view rather than a long-term one. When I was young a man I knew from church was killed in a one-car accident when his vehicle slammed into a pole and burst into flames. Why? Did he fall asleep? No, nor did someone else run him off the road. Instead, he was drunk and lost control. Why was he drunk? He had gone to drown his sorrows in the face of the knowledge that he had lost every penny he had to support his family because of a gambling habit. Do you see the progression?

Today, unfortunately, sad things are on the way to happening. All over the country, all over the world, things that could be avoided won’t be, and many will be affected. Why? Because of the “it’s not that big a deal” mentality. **Friends, let me be both clear and loving.** Today, even in the church, and even in our congregation, something is currently going to happen, in time. It will happen because someone is not taking something seriously. In time, it will ruin someone’s marriage. Another will be ruined spiritually by the interest in “the fast track” in business. Another still will wonder why their child doesn’t remain faithful, and so on and so on it goes. Why did these things happen? They happened because someone was more interested in the now than the future, and more focused on the creation than the Creator. Friends, let me say it again….right here, right now…..you either believe this or you don’t…..see below.

***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous and all these things will be added to you also.” (Matthew 6:33)***

If you believe today that God can’t provide for a way to pay, a way to play, or a way to stay, then please…..please….I want to talk with you. Will you? Do you?

**Andy Connelly**