

Eternal Consequences of Failing to Fulfill God's Plan

QUESTION: What are the eternal consequences of failing to fulfill God's plan for your life? What actually did the Apostle Paul mean when he said that a believer who failed to precisely carry out God's plan "... will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames" (1 Cor. 3: 15b)?

ANSWER: In essence, what the apostle is saying is this: "a believer who fails to fulfill God's plan will be saved, but he will have no reward." Paul used the fire metaphor to cement the truth. Imagine what happens when someone's house catches fire and he narrowly escapes; he escapes, but has nothing. Paul wasn't the only apostle, who was concerned about the carnal believer's loss of reward. John warned his audience "Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming." (1 John 2:28).

The Holy Spirit is silent regarding the eternal state of a believer who fails God in time. We do know that the failed believer will not go to hell; however, he will not have the same standing in heaven with those faithful servants who fulfilled God's plan for their life. (Rev. 3:10-12).