



WOW: Word Of the Week

Default

August 10, 2022

Default. What comes to your mind? Financially, we may talk about defaulting on a loan. Technologically, we may speak of restoring a phone or computer to the default (original) settings, the settings that existed before anything extra was selected. Grammatically, we can describe what is customary (“unless another location is announced, the default is to meet at the coffee shop”); or, in formal grammar, “in default of other suggestions, we will proceed as originally planned.”

Think with me about the concept of spiritual default. The dictionary says default is that which exists or happens if you do not intentionally change it by performing an action. Another definition describes a “predefined or preselected option when no alternative has been specified or selected.”

Did you know that the Bible teaches that human beings have an eternal default destination? After the entry of sin into the world, the destiny of human beings who become participants in the sinful fallenness of our world is eternity separated from God. The default is “no God,” separated from God. Paul declared that all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. This truth points to the predefined option. Unless an alternative is selected, unless a person intentionally changes the settings by making another choice, the default destination is predefined by the reality of human existence.

Worthy of mention in passing: the Bible teaching about the possibility of eternal separation from God contradicts universalism (the unconditional salvation of everyone). Every person must consider what God desires from his human creation.

A short, perhaps memorable summary of what God wants: God wants to be **recognized** or known, **respected** or worshiped. God desires **relationship**, which demands **repentance** and **restoration-redemption-reconciliation** of the relationship broken by sin. The Bible often describes it as **renewal**. Finally, God wants us to be **reflections** of his glory in this world.

Spiritually, the default setting is disastrous. The default destination is destruction.

If you are not satisfied with the default destination, you should reset your life.

If you would like to talk further about what God is like and what it means to know him as he is, to worship him according to his nature, to establish broken relationship, to experience redemption and reconciliation, the total renewal of our being with the old “default” person cast aside, I would love to share some study time, personally or virtually.

What does it mean for us to reflect God’s glory into the darkness?