

REALITY CHECK

by Robert Hatfield

The mood was light, happy and even almost fun as the nicely dressed men and women stepped off the buses, walked through the barbed gate and into the camp for the first time. Rumors of the horrible activity which defiled these secluded scenes had traveled from person to person, but no one actually believed those stories. These people were nothing more than loyal followers of their fearless leader; all they wanted was a better home with better inhabitants. They looked forward to a “better Germany.”

The sounds of joy and laughter quickly turned to sorrow and crying as Allied troops led the German men and women through each building at the concentration camp after the war was over. Their eyes were opened to the fact that their Nazi leaders had been murdering literally thousands upon thousands of innocent people, all of whom came from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. They could no longer hide behind their blankets of ignorance; these people finally saw reality. Many of these men and women later admitted to a previous knowledge of the concentration camps, but had simply dismissed it from their minds. They became increasingly numb to the reality of mass horror and innocent bloodshed.

Christians today look back on the tragedy of the Holocaust and find it difficult to believe that many people ignored the horror that surrounded them. However, it seems that many individuals — even Christians themselves — seem to ignore a horrific situation in which the majority are involved: the loss of souls (cf. Matt. 7:13-14).

The Bible seems to reinforce the idea that an occasional “reality check” is good for Christians. Paul noted that apostasy would bring a numbness to sin.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**” (1 Tim. 4:1-2, emp. added)

The Greek behind the words “*seared with a hot iron*” means to brand or render insensitive; to cauterize. In Ephesians 4:19 Paul described the Gentiles’ serious sinful state as those who were, “past feeling.” They had become apathetic to sin’s destructive forces.

Isn’t it possible for Christians today to become so influenced and accustomed by the sinful world around us that we lose sight of the seriousness of sin? Could it be that many Christians are not working as they ought because they are numb to sin?

The Lord is depending upon **Christians** to carry out His work and to stay focused. Matthew 5:14-16.

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