

Making Wise Choices

Introduction:

- A. The Old Testament provides valuable lessons for the Christian – 1 Cor.10:11.
- B. One such lesson is the importance of “Making Wise Choices” in our lives.
 - 1. Lot made a choice as to where to live, and as a result he experienced...
 - a. War and kidnaping – Gen.14.
 - b. Oppression and torment by the ungodly citizens of Sodom – 2 Pet.2:7,8.
 - c. Loss of all his possessions, death of his wife, and incest with his daughters – Gen.19.
 - 2. David chose to commit adultery with Bathsheba, and as a consequence he suffered...
 - a. The death of his infant son – 2 Sam.12.
 - b. A daughter (Tamar) is molested by her half-brother (Amnon) – 2 Sam.13.
 - c. That son is then killed by her vengeful brother (Absalom) – 2 Sam.13.
 - d. Rebellion led by Absalom, who shamed him, and whose death grieved him – 2 Sam.15-18.
- C. With Lot and David illustrating the need for “Making Wise Choices”, let’s consider...
 - 1. Some choices that greatly affect our lives.
 - 2. Suggestions for making wise choices.
 - 3. What to do when we have made the wrong choice.

I. Choices Which Greatly Affect Our Lives.

- A. **Choosing to be a Christian.**
 - 1. cf.Josh.24:15– Just as Israel had a choice to make, so do we today.
 - 2. Will you follow Jesus?
 - a. Will you become one of His disciples?
 - b. Or will you refuse to accept His gracious offer of salvation – Matt.11:28-30.
 - 3. This one decision will affect your life more than any other!
 - a. It will have a bearing on every other decision you make in life.
 - b. As a disciple of Jesus, you’ll be concerned with doing His will.
- B. **Choosing a Career.**
 - 1. Even from a worldly viewpoint, your choice is important.
 - 2. More importantly, the choice can have a lasting effect on your marriage and family and your service to God.
 - 3. Make the choice to honor God first, and you will be blessed – Matt.6:33.
 - 4. Be content no matter what the choice – 1 Tim.6:6-8.
 - 5. Make money the primary factor in your decision, and destruction will follow – 1 Tim.6:9,10.
- C. **Choosing a Mate.**
 - 1. This choice will determine to a great extent your degree of happiness – Prov.12:4.
 - 2. It will have a permanent bearing on your children, since they will be mother or father to them.
 - a. They will have an impact on their emotional well-being, on the way your children are raised, they may even have an impact on whether your children will be Christians or not (and thus on whether your children will go to heaven).
 - 3. We must make this choice with God’s will in mind.
 - a. Does this person share in my desire to go to heaven?
 - b. Do they share your respect for God’s will? – cf.Jer.42:6.
 - c. Do they respect God’s will pertaining to the permanence of marriage? – Mal.2:16; Matt.19:9.
- D. **Choosing Your Friends.**
 - 1. Having close friends can be a wonderful blessing – cf.Prov.17:17.
 - 2. But the wrong friends can be a curse – cf.Prov.12:26; 1 Cor.15:33.
- E. **Choosing Where to Live.**
 - 1. It was this choice where Lot made his mistake.
 - a. It appeared to be a sound business decision – Gen.13:10,11.

- b. But it was a poor moral decision – Gen.13:13.
- 2. Upon what basis do we choose where to live?
 - a. Do we consider whether it will help or hinder our service to God and His church?
- 3. There may be some modern-day “Sodom’s” and “Gommora’s” to avoid!
- F. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction – and for every choice there is a consequence.
- G. To increase the likelihood that our choices will have good consequences, here are a few...

II. Suggestions for Making Wise Choices.

A. **Ask God for Wisdom.**

- 1. He promises to give wisdom to those who ask in faith – Jas.1:5-8.
- 2. Asking for wisdom requires diligence – Prov.2:1-9.
- 3. Fill your prayers with requests for wisdom to make wise choices!

B. **Ask Others for Advice.**

- 1. There is safety in having many counselors – Prov.11:14.
- 2. There is wisdom in heeding the counsel of others – Prov.12:15.
- 3. Two great sources for counsel: The Bible itself and older, mature Christians.

C. **Commit Your Choices to the Lord.**

- 1. Trusting that you have made choices pleasing to Him, put them in His hands – Ps.37:5,6,23-26.
- 2. Make your choices with the understanding, “if the Lord wills” – Jas.4:13-15.
- 3. One might even ask the Lord that if a choice is not according to His will He might frustrate the carrying out of the choice or to otherwise show you what His will is.

D. There will be times when it becomes apparent that we made poor choices, even wrong ones.

E. What can we do to avoid making matters worse...?

III. Responding to Wrong Choices.

A. **Learn from the Mistakes of Others.**

- 1. Do what Lot did: **Heed and flee!**
 - a. Heed the Word of God.
- 2. Do what Peter did: **Repent and serve!**
 - a. Repent, if sin is involved (as when Peter denied Christ).
 - b. Serve the Lord with what time you have left in this life.
- 3. Do what Paul did: **Accept and live!**
 - a. Accept the forgiveness Jesus provides – cf.1 Tim.1:12-16.
 - b. Determine to live for the Lord to the best of your ability – cf.Phil.3:13,14.

B. **The Wrong Thing to Do.**

- 1. Continue – remain in the choice you’ve made because of pride, or some other reason!
- 2. Wallow – just feel sorry for yourself over your guilt or loss!

Conclusion:

- A. May we ever be open to the wisdom from God and the counsel of others as we make choices in this life.
- B. Have you made the most important decision you will ever face in this life?
 - 1. The decision which will determine your eternal destiny?
 - 2. The decision to follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- C. Why not decide today to follow Jesus, and become one of His disciples?