



Bad Choices

Why is life sometimes a bunch of problems, confusion and pain? Let us look at some fundamental realities. I see around me in the team that most of our issues could be solved and life around here would be a lot more harmonious and nice if we put this realistic principle in action a lot more. The older I get the more I see many do not want to be realistic, and they pay a high price for it.

Our soul consists of mind, emotion and will. This is where the battle rages. Satan wars to keep different bondages sins have created our life. It is in the area of the mind we either wins or loose in this battle we call life. The most powerful weapon Satan has to battle our mind is fear. Many become paralyzed spiritually in their soul because of the attachment of fear on their mind and heart. But it does not have to be that way, and when it is the fault is usually our own. And not just "because of Satan," but because of our own free will and bad choices.

I can't count the number of people who have come to me and said they were leaving because of this or that reason. It is usually something insignificant actually, and yet it governs a decision that will affect their whole life and service for the Lord. Many times they are simply fearful of the future and question if God is really in control of their lives. They say, "I have decided to go and that is it. Do not try to reason with me as I have made my choice and that is it;" Oftentimes not even giving a thought of the consequences and how their life will be from then on. Some, in the moment of fear and personal crisis, seem not to care at all.

We were in Taranto in the mist of some high apartment buildings. Right in front of my son Grant a man fell to his death. He came and got me and, in shock, asked, "Why did that man commit suicide?" Some of the friends and family told the sad story. He was a policeman and enjoyed a comfortable life. But on this day he got into an argument with his teenage daughter. She had told him she did not love him because of some restrictions he had put on her movements. Their argument got very heated. He went to the balcony and said he would jump off. He probably had never had such a thought before. He cried out that he had decided to end his life if he couldn't have the love of his daughter. He would not listen to reason and said I have decided that it would be the best thing and my daughter would be happier if I wasn't around. He looked at the ground and threw himself off the balcony. The consequences were a family torn apart, a soul that decided eternal darkness and damnation, and guilt that the family members would deal with for the rest of their lives.

In Dt. 30:19 we find a choice - a wise choice. We are to choose rightly but many make foolish choices. Pr. 6:32 says the man who chooses adultery is a fool. Why? Because it will cost you your life!

Many do not fear bad choices thinking there will be no consequences. If they could see the consequences at the end of the story they might have made very different choices. We should stop and think, and ask - what will be the fruit of my choice? And we should always ask Godly council with an open heart. But many go on in their foolish ways and then one day cry out, "Why is life so difficult? Why did God do this to me?" When in fact it was not God who brought on their plight at all, but their own choices!

Let us not blame God for all our troubles, but look to the Word and make our choices in reference to what God has informed us to do. Every day we have to make choices and there are only two alternatives each time; life and death.

But "life" is not merely about you and how happy you can be. Many people make choices always trying to create their own personal happiness. They choose sin, rebellion, or selfishness. This is where all evil derives from. The result is sadness, confusion and ultimately death. This is the fruit of wrong choices in life.

True "life" is about God. And the sooner we understand this, the sooner we will have the right sense to make proper choices; Choices based on how we can please God and bring Him pleasure. Also in our own personal lives we have this great power to choose. It is the greatest power we have! And our future will be what our choices brought on in this brief life of ours. Life or death, curses or blessings. What will your choice be?

Please remember that while we have the freedom of choices, we do not have the freedom of consequences. We know a dear brother who decided to go with a prostitute. It was only one time and he didn't do it again. The Holy Spirit convicted him and he confessed to God and his wife. He was wonderfully forgiven by his loving wife and Gods peace reentered his life. But a while later he discovered that he had been infected with HIV and it was forming into the AIDS virus in his body. Many choices come with a very high price and not only do we pay the price, but so do others around us who we love. As you go through life you will face many events that will make you either a winner or loser, better or bitter, depending on the choices you make.

Jesus spoke of two specific choices in Mat.7: 13-14. He told us to enter the narrow gate, as it leads to life; but broad is the way that leads to destruction. What an incredible declaration! There are FEW who choose the narrow gate. Why? Because difficult is the way that leads to life. In other words, it is not an easy choice, but it is the most important one we will ever make. One leads to happiness and true joy, and one to death, misery and destruction.

Jesus tells us it is difficult to choose correctly because of all the pressures you face from the devil, the world, and -- let us not forget -- our FLESH. You are constantly faced with choosing whom you will believe. You only have two choices. Which path will you walk?

It would be great if we made one choice and the rest of our lives would be just fine. But it is not that way. We must make eternal choices every day in all aspects of our life.

The sad truth, that most people never come to understand, is that their choices are very limited. You choose Gods way or some other. You see, we can make our own choices; but God has already chosen the consequences of our choices. You go Gods way and get blessed, or you go the other way and get cursed.

God chose you for a purpose and He did not make a mistake. You exist for a reason, and He loves you very much. You exist because God chose you to bring Him pleasure. In Revelation it states clearly that God created everything for His pleasure.

If you are making bad choices, why not stop and think about the reason for your great and wonderful existence? Make the right choices, and not only will you be blessed, but all those around you will too.

Bro. Clark