**BIBLE - DECISION MAKING**

***HEBREWS 11:7-8 - TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – God creates us with the unique ability to choose. God loved us enough to allow us the freedom to make choices. Of course our choices can either be good or bad decisions.

Let us notice in the text (**HEB. 11:7-8**) for our lesson today that both Noah and Abraham had decisions to make. Noah had to decide if he was indeed going to build the ark and Abraham had to decide if he was going to leave his home to travel to a land not knowing where he was going. They made their decisions based on their faith in God and their willingness to obey his word and as a result they received the blessings of God.

The purpose of our lesson today is to understand what the Bible teaches in regard to decision making.

***DECISION MAKING PROCESS:***

1. **BIBLE SAYS WE CAN CHOOSE GOOD OR EVIL** –
2. **GEN. 2:15-17** – From the beginning of time God has granted to man the freedom to choose good or evil. Will you choose to disregard the commandments of God in your life? If you do so you will experience a lifetime of heartache and disappointment.
3. **GEN. 4:3-8** – If man decides of his own free will to worship God. God allows him to do so. He does not force man to worship according to the pattern given by God – **HEB. 11:4** – How are you going to worship God? I.E. – Richland Hills – They have decided not to follow the pattern given by God any longer. Elijah in **1 KINGS 18:21** – challenged the prophets of Baal and said ***"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.***
4. **JOSH. 24:15-22** – God allowed Joshua to make his choice for his family to serve the true and living God or idols. Instead of serving God today you can serve the idols of this world – golfing, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, social clubs or organizations.
5. **1 CHRON. 21:1-8** – God allowed David to choose to listen to the warning of Joab or disregard it. As a result of disregarding good advice the Lord sends a plague upon the people and 70.000 people died as a result of a untimely decision.
6. **JONAH 1:1-3** – Jonah chose to not serve God. Are you a Christian yet you do not want to be involved in service to God? Are you like Jonah running away from your responsibility? **JONAH 3:1-3** – The next time God spoke to Jonah he listened. Are you like Jonah the word of God has come to you time and time again and yet you refuse to repent.
7. **ROM. 6:16-18** - NT doctrine regarding our free will and our ability to choose. The Bible is clear we have autonomy – the ability to freely choose.
8. **GOOD DECISIONS WE SHOULD MAKE** –
9. **DEUT. 30:19-20** – God says we should choose life. We should love the Lord and obey his voice. We can choose smoking, drinking, drugs, sexual immorality, crime, violence, we can choose to disregard what God says concerning marriage and who has the right to be married we can live a life of rebellion, but when we make these decisions we are not choosing life we are choosing death and cursing.
10. **PROV. 3:1-7** – God is speaking to us. He is trying to convince us to make the right decisions. Vs. 7 is God’s instructions to us to not be a know it all!!! Where is your trust? In yourself or others? When you cease to trust in God where has that gotten you in this life?
11. **PROV. 1:8-10** – Remember the training you received from your father and mother. Honor your father and mother by not forsaking the instructions they gave you as a child. When you are about to make a decision ask your self would this decision please God and my parents
12. **PSA. 119:25-32** – We can choose the way of lying or the way of truth. Remember only the truth can set you free. God desires for us to choose the way of truth. What choice have you made in your life? Is it to speak lie on top of lie which leads to deceit and lack of trust or is it the way of truth and your word is your bond. Are you responsible, dependable, trustworthy, and have an honorable reputation? If these characteristics are in your life it is only because truth is important to you.
13. **PROFITABLITY OF GODLY DECISIONS** –
14. **IN THIS LIFE** –
	1. **MATT. 25:1-13** – We have the choice to be foolish or wise. Which will we choose? If we choose to be prepared we will enter into the blessings of the Lord prepared for those who are prepared.
	2. **LUKE 11:27-28** – Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.
	3. **ROM. 13:1-4** – If we make godly decisions we do not have to fear the government. I.E. – If I choose to drive under the influence, speed, drive recklessly and refuse to wear my seat belt then I need to fear the government.
	4. **ACTS 26:15-18** – If we make the decision to turn from darkness to light look at the blessings we receive in this life – forgiveness of sins – heirs – and we are sanctified. Benefits do not stop when this life ends in reality they are just beginning.
15. **IN DEATH** –
	1. **ECCL. 7:1** – The day of ones death can be better than the day of ones birth if they make the decision to faithfully follow God’s Son.
	2. **COL. 3:23-25** – In death we will receive the reward if we have heartily served the Lord. We will also be repaid if we choose to do wrong because there is no partiality with God.
	3. **REV. 14:13** – Blessed are those who die in the Lord. If you were to die right now with the decisions you have made in your life would you be in the Lord? Those who have made this decision (to be in the Lord) will enter eternal rest.
	4. **REV. 22:14** – “***Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and enter through the gates into the city”*** Will death be a blessing to you? Only if you have made godly decisions in this life

**CONCLUSION** –

Hopefully this lesson has served to help us better understand what the Bible teaches about decision making.

In review –

What does the Bible have to say about decision making?

The Bible says we can choose good or evil!!!

The Bible encourages us to make godly decisions!!!

The Bible clearly shows the profitability of godly decisions in this life as well as in death.

What type of decision maker are you?

Would you decide to follow Jesus today?