

CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES!

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Life is all about choices. For instance, every morning most of us grudgingly rise from our beds, shake the cobwebs from our heads scattering the spiders to the four corners of our brains, rub the sleepiness from our stinging eyes, and stretch the stiffness from our hesitant bodies. Let’s see, what am I going to have for breakfast this morning – should I make toast, or simply pour a bowl of ‘nutritious’ Fruit Loops, Lucky Charms, or Apple Crisp? Maybe I’ll have a couple of Pop Tarts, or Toaster Pastries. Again, that giant honey bun is screaming my name pretty loudly! And so it begins – choices, choices, and more choices.

Every day affords hundreds of choices and each one carries with it certain consequences. While all choices affect our lives to a certain degree, some are more important than others with far reaching consequences: for example, the Lord expounded in Deuteronomy 30:9 to choose life and blessing instead of death and cursing. God has graciously provided us with the option to enjoy life and blessings over a life of misery brought on by our own rebellion and sinful ways.

I am daily dismayed as I see people throw their lives away because they think living a life of rebellion leads to happiness and fulfillment. Every day the news is inundated with both young and old whose lives are being ruined and ravaged by the effects of a sinful lifestyle. Like a flame drawing the moth to its demise, drugs and alcohol are leading the way progressively taking over their lives and destroying their families and friends. Take a look at some of the names making the list of causalities: Michael Jackson, John Belushi, Bruce Lee, Lenny Bruce, Kurt Cobain, Sigmund Freud, Judy Garland, Jimi Hendrix, Howard Hughes, Janis Joplin, Heath Ledger, Anna Nicole Smith, Billy Mays, Jim Morrison, Marilyn Monroe, Dana Plato, Elvis Presley, Amy Winehouse, and just recently, Whitney Houston.

The above list is only a small portion of ‘famous’ people who thought they could control drugs and alcohol, but in the end their lives and careers were destroyed leaving nothing but memories. If they could be brought back from the grave, no doubt they would scream and beg, ‘don’t go down the road I chose’. Make the right choices. Follow God’s declaration, chose life and blessing!

Many who read this may frown and sneer – that could never happen to me! I know when to say no. I know when to quit. But like a famished tiger preying upon its victim, sudden death awaits those who refuse warning. God’s Word is true and steadfast! Follow it with all your heart, for with it comes life and blessing – guaranteed by the Governor of the universe.

Dear Father, I beg and employ your mercy upon those who ignore your words of warning. Please open our hearts and minds and let us see the tragic consequences of making the wrong choices. Help us to choose life over death, blessing over misery. In Jesus name, your son, Pastor Greg – Amen.