

## God Gives Man Eternal Choices

[12-2-12]

Text: Deuteronomy 11:26-28

<sup>26</sup> “Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: <sup>27</sup> the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; <sup>28</sup> and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

- a. God has always give man the power to choose, but consequences come with each choice that we make.
- b. Good choices improve our lives and bad decisions make our lives more difficult.
- c. God sets before us a blessing and a curse and challenges us to “choose life. [Deuteronomy 30:19]

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

- d. The choices that you make have an eternal impact, not only on you, but also your descendants.
- e. What choices are you making with your life?

### 1. Moses Chose To Serve God.

- a. The Hebrew writer wrote of Moses, [Hebrews 11:24-26]

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in<sup>[a]</sup> Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- b. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
- c. Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God.
- d. Moses lost- he lost the treasures of Egypt.

- e. Moses gained- he lost treasures in Egypt, but gained greater riches in heaven.[Matthew 6:19-21]

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## 2. Mary Chose The Good Part That is Most important.

- a. Luke 10:38-42

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' <sup>[a]</sup> feet and heard His word. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." <sup>41</sup> And Jesus <sup>[b]</sup> answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

- b. Mary chose "the good part "because she chose to listen to God's word.
- c. She chose to be with Christ. Have you made that choice?
- d. You can make that choice by your faith and obedience to the Gospel of Christ. [Mark 16:15-16]

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- e. Choosing the good part or choosing what is most important should be our daily goal.

## 3. Felix and Agrippa Chose To Reject The Gospel.

- a. Acts 24:25;Acts 26:27-28

Acts 24:25 – Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Acts 26:27-28: King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuaded me to become a Christian.”

- b. Song: Almost persuaded but lost!
- c. Many are almost persuaded but lost, but choose not to obey the Lord.  
[Hebrews 5:9]

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

#### 4. Demas chose To Forsake Paul.

- a. 2 Timothy 4:10

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

- b. Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- c. 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- d. Love of this present world like Demas has caused many to leave the Lord and his work.

- e. Chose to be faithful to the Lord and His work. [1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10]

1 Corinthians 15:58 –Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Invitation: You can choose to be a Christian today. To become a Christian hear the gospel {Romans 10:17}, believe in Jesus [John 8:24], repent of all your sins [Luke 13:5], confess Christ as Lord [Acts 8:37], and be baptized for the remission of your sins. [Acts 2:38] After baptism choose to remain faithful because God will reward us with eternal life in heaven. [2 Timothy 4:6-8]

Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

John 8:24 - *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

Luke 13:5 - *<sup>5</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."*

Acts 8:37 - *Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."<sup>l</sup>*

Acts 2:38 - *<sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*

II Timothy 4:6-8: *<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*