



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

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Life is full of decisions; many of them are of little consequence, but often seemingly small ones have momentous implications. You cannot escape making decisions and Jesus clearly taught that not to decide is really a decision. Unfortunately, God's people often make the wrong decision and end up with dire consequences. Lot's decision to move to Sodom looked like a good thing. But twenty years later it proved disastrous. David's decision to stay home from the battle put him in the place of temptation with horrendous results. Jehoshaphat's decision to join in an adventure with ungodly Ahab was likewise very costly. While we know it is true that **"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,"** most of us act like that only applies to the other guy. No, the law is universal! Thank God there are plenty of examples of men and women who have made the right decision. Joseph was stronger than David for he said, **"How can I do this great evil and sin against God?"** The immediate consequences were not good, but he was right and God turned it into good. Joshua made the right decision when he said, **"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."** (Dad, are you listening?). Daniel and his three friends made the right decision. It was no big deal (as most would think); just a little wine and meat! However, it could have cost them their heads. But God says, **"Them that honor me, I will honor."** Christian, in reality, there are no small decisions for right is right and wrong is wrong, no matter how you try to justify it. It is always dangerous to make any decision that is not in accord with God's will and His Word. Furthermore, your decision will affect others, your wife or husband, children, etc. Lot's decision certainly brought great grief and death to his family. So did David's and the others. Some decisions can be corrected, but many, if not most, cannot. The simple adage, you can't bring water back over the dam is something we might all remember with profit. You cannot unscramble an egg. You had better not scramble things in the first place!

If you are not saved, not born again, please note two more decisions. The rich, young ruler who came to Jesus, he seemed to have it all, but something was still missing. His problem; gold was his god. Jesus said you will have to give it up before you can trust Me. You can't have two Gods; though many try. It says, **"He went away very sorrowful."** He made the wrong decision. Believe me; nothing is worth going to hell over. His gold is still here somewhere - he has been in hell for 2,000 years! Jesus loved him, but He didn't lower the standard. Another young man made the right decision. The Prodigal Son said, **"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, father, I have sinned..."** The most important decision you will ever make is whether or not you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior! Yes, you have to say, *"Father, I have sinned."* But if you do that from the heart, He will save you. *One of these days, decision time will be over, for the Lord is coming.* If you die before you make the decision to trust Christ, it will also be over. The Bible clearly reveals that it is possible to go too far...to put off the decision one time too many. After all, who are you that God should put up with your telling Him when you are going to get saved? He won't do it! Receive Christ NOW! **"Now is the day of salvation."**

YOUTH CORNER

HAVE COURAGE MY BOY, TO SAY "NO."

You're starting my boy, on life's journey
Along the grand highway of life;
You'll meet with a thousand temptations
Each city with evil is rife;
This world is a stage of excitement -
There's danger wherever you go;
But if you are tempted in weakness,
Have courage, my boy, to say, "No."

The bright, ruby wine may be offered -
No matter how tempting it be,
From poison it stings like an adder:
My boy, have courage to flee.
The billiard saloons are inviting,
Decked out in their tinsel and show;
But if you are tempted to enter,
Have courage, my boy, to say, "No."

In courage alone lies your safety,
When you the long journey begin;
Your trust in the Heavenly Father
Will keep you unspotted from sin.
Temptations will keep on increasing,
As streams from a rivulet flow;
But if you'd be true to your manhood,
Have courage, my boy, to say, "No."
-Douglas Malloch

GET UP AND GO TO CHURCH.

"Get up, get up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
A lazy Sunday morning surely means harm and loss;
The Son of God is calling, in duty be not slack;
You cannot fight the good fight lying on your back."
-C. T. Studd, missionary to China and Africa

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

If you don't know what God wants you to do, just make a complete surrender.

A good many problems are created by saying "Yes," when you should have said, "No."

Sign in office building: "*Remember the energy crisis. Please turn off lights when not in use. Thanks a watt.*"

"Some people never recognize opportunity because it usually comes disguised as work!"

No dish ever comes to the table which is so nauseous as cold religion. Put it away! Neither God nor man can endure it. - Spurgeon

"Lincoln was great, not because he lived in a log cabin, but because he was able to get out of it!"

Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth!

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. ~Ephesians 6:4

BETTER THINK IT OVER DAD! Someone has said, "*What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own children?*" Sad to say, I have lived to see this happen many times, and not only with the unsaved, but with all too many believers. They get their eyes off the Lord and the things of this world become more important than the things of God. If you want to save your children, you had better put God first! I think of the words of Judah when Benjamin was going to be kept in Egypt: "**How shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me?**" How can you go to Heaven without your children? Someday will be too late to think about this; better do it NOW! Dad, God holds YOU responsible for your children!

1900'S GREATEST FASHION INNOVATION.

Mature Outlook took a poll to see what people thought were the most significant events and greatest figures of the last century. It was voted that "*the greatest fashion development of the past century was **pants for women!***" Can you believe it? I believe the first woman to wear pants in the U.S. was a famous Hollywood actress who wore them in the 1930's. I also believe that she created a notorious scandal by an affair with a married man. (No problem today in Hollywood or elsewhere). Today we have many "Christian" women wearing pants. Not only is it worldly, it is against the plain teaching of the Word of God, Deut. 22:5. I have had many Christian women remind me that that is the Old Testament. I remind them that it is none the less the Word of God. We are not under the law, but God is still against lying, adultery, etc. Now, I am a dispensationalist, God does different things in different ages. *But the principles of God do not change!* We are not under the law, but God is still against lying, adultery, etc. If something was an abomination to God in O.T. times, it must still be an abomination to Him! Today, women (some Christian women) continue to stretch the limits by wearing shorts and other worldly styles that are not pleasing to God.

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

C.H. Spurgeon said, "I believe that one reason the Church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the Church. Nowadays, we hear Nonconformists pleading that they may do this and they may do that, - things which their...forefathers would rather have died than have tolerated. They plead that they may live like worldlings, and my sad answer to them is...'Do it if you dare! It may not hurt you much for you are so bad already. Your cravings show how rotten your hearts are. If you have a hungering after such dog's meat, go dogs and eat garbage. Worldly amusements are food for mere pretenders and hypocrites. If you were God's children, you would loathe the very thought of the world's evil joys, and your question would not be 'How far may we be like the world?' but your one cry would be 'How far can we get away from the world?' Your temptation would be rather to become sternly severe, and ultra-Puritanical in your separation from sin.' Brethren, the use of the Church in the world is that it should be like salt in the midst of putrefaction; but if the salt has lost its savor, what good is it?...Come ye children of God, you must stand without the camp. Jesus calls you today and says, '**Follow Me.**' Was Jesus found at the theatre? Did He frequent the sports arena? Was He seen in any of the amusements of the Herodian court?" What would Spurgeon say today of Christians who spend hours each week watching sports, carnal (even lewd) TV shows and other sinful activities? It's a sad spectacle to see professing Fundamental Christians taken up with pleasure, sports, TV, the internet and a thousand other worldly things while multitudes are perishing without a word. We have professed Christians who have no time to read their Bibles, pray, go soul winning, but they have time for everything else. God hates lukewarmness and worldliness! It is high time to REPENT!

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BAPTIST PERPETUITY

I have an article on "Why I Am A Baptist." One reason is Baptists are the only ones who can legitimately trace their history back to the disciples and Jesus. The following is from *The Baptist Vision*: Sir Isaac Newton said, "The Baptists are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with Rome." Alexander Campbell, founder of the Campbellites wrote, "The sentiments of the Baptists and their practice of baptism from the apostolic age to the present have a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century..." Robert Barclay, Quaker historian said, "We shall...show that the rise of the Anabaptists took place prior to the Reformation in England and there are reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe...It seems probable that these churches have a lineage or succession more ancient than the Roman Church." Methodist historian J. C. Ridpath: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist Church as far back as 100 A.D...as all Christians were then Baptists." Mosheim, an outstanding Lutheran historian said, "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe, persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptists...the first century was a history of Baptists." Zwingli, said, "The institution of the Anabaptists is no novelty, but for 1300 years has caused great trouble in the Church." Catholic Cardinal Hosius, President of the Council of Trent said, "Were it not for the fact that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1200 years, they would swarm greater than the Reformers...there have been none for the past 1200 years that have been more generally punished or...have offered themselves to the most cruel punishment than these people."