



## DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

September 2014

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. He said to his brothers that though they meant their deed for evil, 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."** (Challenge Reprint)

## CORNERSTONE NEWS

# FRIEND DAY!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup>

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30

CHURCH SERVICE - 10:45

DINNER UNDER TENT

*Free, those attending above.*

SINGSPIRATION - 1:30

EVENING SERVICE - 6:00



**Your Friends Need Christ - Invite Them!**

**GIFT FOR EACH VISITOR AT S.S. & CHURCH!**

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**WHAT SAVED THE JUDGE'S LIFE?** Some years ago Judge Shephard was Circuit Judge in Nashville, Tennessee. He was also a Deacon in his church. It was his unvarying custom to attend all of the services of his church. One Sunday the Pastor noticed that the Judge was not in his usual place in church. After the service he inquired if anybody knew where Judge Shephard was. No one seemed to know. So, one of the members, a Dr. Cox, called the Judge's home but received no answer. He became alarmed as the Judge lived alone. So, he went there and found the house locked and he received no answer to his repeated knocking. He then called the police. He was able to convince the police something was wrong and got them to force open the door saying: "It was not like the judge to miss church as he was there when the church was open. Something must be wrong with him." The officers forced open the door and found him unconscious due to deadly fumes from a faulty gas heater. Another half-hour would have been too late! The judge's testimony of being in church for every service saved his life. What kind of a testimony do you have relative to Church services. God says, "**Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**" ~Hebrews 10:25.

**CH -- CH means nothing unless U R in it!**

## YOUTH CORNER

**THE ATTRIBUTE OF OBEDIENCE.** If there is one thing a Christian ought to be it is obedient to God and His Word. It will save you a lot of grief and may save your life. I read the story of a little girl sitting in a field in front of her house. The father was preparing to go hunting, when he looked at his daughter and saw a poisonous snake coiled and ready to strike. If his daughter moved the snake would surely attack. He said, "Mary, don't move!" At the same time, he leveled his gun, took careful aim and cut it down before it could do its deadly damage. The child was spared because she gave strict obedience to her father. That is what we are supposed to do - give strict obedience to our Heavenly Father by simply obeying His Word! After all, He alone knows what is best. The hymn writer put it this way: "*Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*"

**CHRISTIAN: IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!**

If you have a work to do --- Do it NOW!

If you have a witness to give -- Do it NOW!

If you have a soul to win -- Win him NOW!

If you have an obligation to discharge -- Do it NOW!

If you have a debt to pay -- Pay it NOW!

If you have a wrong to right -- Right it NOW!

If you have a confession to make -- Make it NOW!

If you have a preparation to make -- Make it NOW!

If you have children to train -- Train them NOW!

**"The night cometh when no man can work."** -Anon.

**WILL IT BE "I WON'T OR I WILL?"** Quite a few years ago now, the warden in Sing Sing Prison in New York said that it made him tremble when he heard a boy say, "I won't," to his parents. He said it seemed to him that boy had already started down the road to the penitentiary. The spirit of rebellion was beginning to be the master of that boy's mind and heart. It is very serious for one to speak to his parents like this. But did you ever stop to think how dreadful it must be to say "I won't" to Almighty God. Yet, this is exactly what everyone is saying who refuses to repent and trust Jesus Christ as his Savior. If you are not saved, bow your head now and say, "Yes," to God. Trust Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin! He said, "**Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.**"

**DO YOUR FRIENDS A FAVOR!**

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## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**U.S. TAX DOLLARS FOR HAMAS.** The Obama Administration just can't stop appeasing terrorists. Would you believe that Secretary of State John Kerry has pledged \$47 million - your tax dollars - in so-called "humanitarian" aid to the Gaza Strip? Yet we know that Hamas diverts at least 40% of its budget to build terror tunnels into Israel. Why would the United States give humanitarian aid to Gaza when the Obama Administration knows that Hamas uses humanitarian aid to build tunnels, bombs, and rockets? Israeli soldiers lost their lives to destroy Hamas' terror infrastructure. Let's not use American tax dollars to rebuild it. We're mobilizing our resources on Capitol Hill to stop this outrageous abuse. The Obama Administration should not rebuild what Israel had to destroy. Say no to appeasement. Say no to U.S. tax dollars to rebuild Hamas. ACLJ (8/5/14)

**CATHOLICS ORDERED TO ATTEND JEHOVAH'S WITNESS SERVICE.** The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a ruling that workers at a home for the disabled must attend a Jehovah's Witness worship service with patients who wish to attend. In 2009, California instructed San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center to have staff escort a Jehovah's Witness patient to services, but two Catholic employees objected and sued on the grounds that their faith requires they only attend Catholic services. Brad Dacus, founder of [Pacific Justice Institute](#), says it's an interesting case. "We have the rights of employees under Title 7, which requires reasonable accommodation for the sincerely held religious beliefs of employees," he says. "In this case, arguably that would mean not requiring these particular employees to have to sit in and attend a Jehovah's Witness church service." The attorney says employers should do everything they can to meet employees' faith needs, but also cannot forget the needs of the disabled in this situation. The Ninth Circuit says the Catholic employees can be forced to attend the Jehovah's Witness services, but Dacus says the court doesn't fully recognize how those workers' beliefs will be compromised if they are made to attend. "If a public school said *We're just going to have an entire class of students sit in a church service - just in an observatory capacity without having to participate* - I don't think there's a judge in the country that wouldn't strike that down as unconstitutional," he tells OneNewsNow - *OneNewsNow* (8/29/14). Ed. Of course, this could be applied to Bible believers also.

***"...we ought to obey God rather than men."* ~Acts 5:29**

**CARDINAL DOLAN TO LEAD ST. PATRICK PARADE WITH GAY GROUP.** Cardinal Dolan to Lead St. Pat Parade with 1st Gay Group, There is no more natural spot for Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan — a proud, ebullient Irish-American — than grand marshal of the city's historic St. Patrick's Day Parade. But the honor now has an added significance: Parade organizers said Wednesday they will allow the first gay group to march under its own banner. Dolan was quick to issue a statement of support for the parade organizers, accepting their decision. While supporters of gay and lesbian Catholics are cheering, some conservatives want the archbishop to withdraw from the event. "I think we're seeing the Catholicism of Pope Francis come to the Archdiocese of New York," said J. Patrick Hornbeck, chairman of the theology department at Fordham University. "Cardinal Dolan's statement is welcoming. He did not make this decision, but sees the parade as an opportunity for unity." - NewsMax (9/4/14) Ed. This is not surprising since the Roman Catholic Church tries to be "all things to all men." There are homosexual groups within the Roman Church.

**EVANGELICALS SUPPORT MUSLIM INMATE.** The following is excerpted from Christian Post (9/4/14) Early in October the Supreme Court will rule on whether a muslim inmate may grow his beard which is against the Arkansas Dep't of Correction's rules. Gregory Holt (Abdul Maalik Muhammad) said when the prison guard forced him to shave they violated his religious rights. The thing that I want to center on is the fact that several New Evangelical groups are backing Holt in this endeavor. They are: Christian Legal Society, World Vision, Prison Fellowship Ministry, and the National Association of Evangelicals. Ed. First of all, don't they have anything better to do than support a criminal in such a trivial thing? Is this something "Christians" ought to be doing when the followers of Muhammad are out to destroy America and dominate the world? We need to let the world wrestle with its own problems and we do the work of God! Then, are we obligated to cater to every ideology of those who come to this land, including those that come illegally? One of the recent foolish philosophies is that of Globalism. The movement to level the playing field so that all peoples are one is doomed to failure. The plain truth is that sinful man simply cannot bring such a thing to pass. The only real hope for this old world is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom!

## IMPORTANT BIBLE QUESTIONS

The Bible has some questions that are of importance to all. Here are three of them: **Question #1** - **“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”** ~*Mark 8: 36,37*. One of these days you will leave this world and all you have accumulated; where will your soul go? **Question #2** - **“What must I do to be saved?”** ~*Acts 16:30*. The answer is given in the next verse: **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!”** Scripture makes it clear that believing in Christ is to believe that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again. There is no other way! Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** ~*John 14:6*. It is common today to believe that there are many ways to get to Heaven, but those who believe that are deceived. The Bible says, **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”** It is not what man thinks but what God says that counts. **Question #3** - **“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”** ~*Hebrews 2:3*. You do not have to reject Christ to be lost! The truth is, you are already lost! You need to be saved if you are going to get to Heaven. Salvation is a gift - *Ephesians 2:8,9*. If someone offers you a gift and you neglect to take it, whose fault is the loss? The ultimate question is, “Are you saved?” We urge you to settle life’s most important question now, by receiving Christ as your Savior. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”** ~*Acts 16:31*.

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## LESSON ON NOT QUITTING

When Abraham Lincoln was a young man he ran for the legislature in Illinois and was badly beaten. He next entered business and failing, he spent the next seventeen years paying the debt of a worthless partner. He was in love with a beautiful young woman to whom he became engaged - then she died. Entering politics again, he ran for Congress and was again badly beaten. He tried to get an appointment to the United States Land Office, but failed. He became a candidate for the United States Senate, and was badly defeated. In 1856 he became a candidate for the office of Vice President and once more was defeated by Douglas. One failure after another - bad failures - great setbacks! In the face of all this, he became eventually one of the greatest men in America whose memory is honored around the world. When you contemplate the effect of a series of setbacks like this, it should make us feel pretty small when we become discouraged over some trivial difficulty or setback. We think of one man in the Word of God (and there are a number like him) who did not allow trials and opposition to unsettle or discouraged him. He was the apostle Paul, though imprisoned, beaten, ship wrecked, and opposed everywhere he went, he did not turn back or quit. In fact, he said that he gloried in tribulation. And coming near the end of his life he could say, **“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give unto me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”** ~*II Timothy 4:6-8*.