

## Making Choices in 2018 Sunday a.m. 1/14/2018

### Here are some choices:

- ✚ Go to sleep at a reasonable hour **or** stay up all night and binge watch the past two seasons of Game of Thrones
- ✚ Keep an account of your expenditures **or** just cross your fingers every time you have to pay for something
- ✚ Make a long-term career plan **or** just got to work every morning and hope for the best
- ❖ The choices we make can be devastating, they can change our lives
  - ✚ Drunk driving
  - ✚ Start taking illegal or prescription drugs
  - ✚ Stealing from work
- ⊛ **There is another side of choices...we have to make choices in order to make commitments in our life**
- ⊛ **When we are unable to make choices, then we are unable to make commitments**

**1 Kings 18:21** The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel  
And Elijah came to all the people, 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. **(before sacrifice)**

### Barry Cooper

"Would you prefer to make an ironclad, no-turning-back choice, or one you could back out of if need be? Do you ever find that you're afraid to commit? Do you reply to party invitations with a "maybe" rather than a "yes" or "no"?"  
Are you afraid to commit to a relationship because there are others?

**"If so, you may be worshiping the god of open options."**

"In *The Paradox of Choice*, psychologist **Barry Schwartz** explains why we have trouble committing, why we love to keep our options open. He

says that as a culture we demand choice. We demand options. We imagine that more options mean more freedom. And most people think that limitless freedom must be a good option.”

- ❖ When we make a choice, **“Be wise, but then rest in God’s total sovereignty and goodness, and choose. Commit. Make a decision. Be wholehearted and single-minded.”**

### **James 1:6-8**

**6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

- ❖ There is help so we can make good choices

### **Psalm 119:173**

Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts.

### **Proverbs 16:16**

How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

### **Proverbs 22:1**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

❖ **There are times that it might be very difficult to choose between two good choices, but when the choice is between God and something else, why do the choices still remain difficult?**

- ❖ God set two choices before Israel, life and good, death and evil
- ❖ This seems like a simple choice, a no brainer

### **Deuteronomy 30:15**

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil

- ❖ God made the result of their choices very clear to Israel
- ❖ God listed the blessings of choosing God and the curses if they did not

- **God told Israel how to choose life and good (Deuteronomy 30:16)**

- ✚ Love the Lord thy God
- ✚ Walk in his ways
- ✚ Keep his commandments
- ✚ Keep his statutes
- ✚ Keep his judgments

- **God told Israel how to choose death and evil (Deuteronomy 30:17)**

- ✚ Turn away from God
- ✚ Do not hear God
- ✚ Draw away from God
- ✚ Worship and serve other gods

**Result:** you will perish and your days be shortened

❖ God tells Israel to choose in **verse 19**

**Deuteronomy 30:19**

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;

✚ **God is saying there is no choice between the two, choose life and good**

**Result:** Love God, obey God, cleave to God

- **We see another example in Joshua 24**

**Joshua 24:15** **Joshua's speech to Israel before he dies**

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

- ❖ God gave Israel cities and vineyards they did not build nor plant
- ❖ Therefore, serve God and sincerity and truth and put away false gods

🌀 **If it doesn't please you to worship the Lord God, then choose who you will worship; the false gods or the God of Abraham**

❖ Joshua says, as for me and my family we will worship the Lord **(15)**

### Close

- ✚ Have you chosen to love God with all your heart?
  - ✚ Have you chosen to walk in his ways?
  - ✚ Have you chosen to keep his commandments and statutes?
  - ✚ Have you chosen to pray to God and listen to him?
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- ❖ What choices are you in the process of making?
  - ❖ Are you making those choices with God in mind?
  - ❖ Do you struggle to make commitments?
  - ❖ Do you not trust God with your decisions?