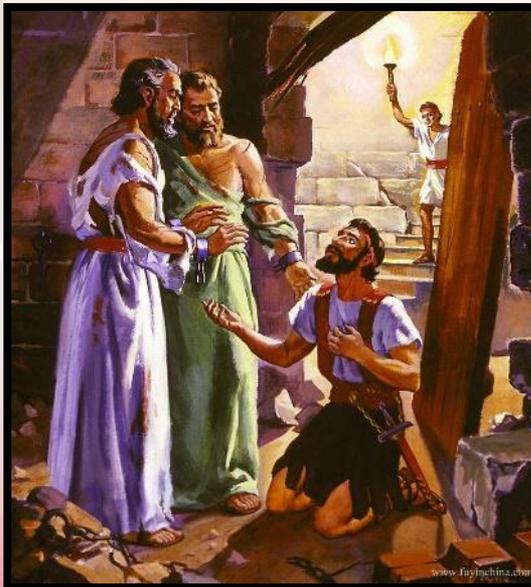
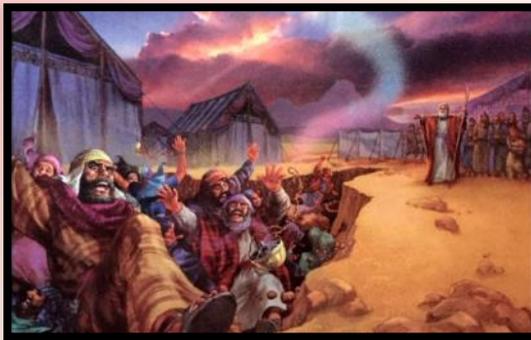
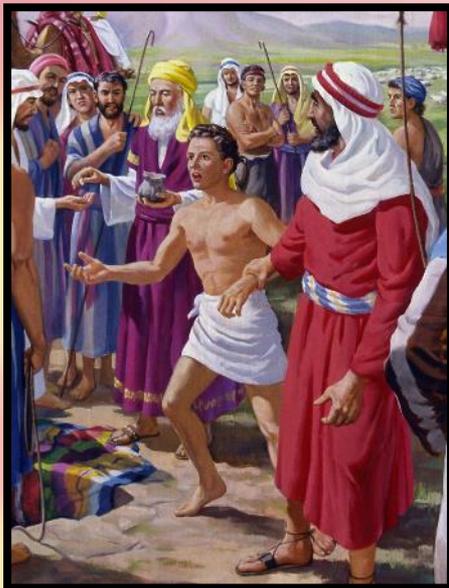


THE CHOICES WE MAKE

We make choices every day. Some of them are routine and trivial, but others may have an impact in our eternal life (Joshua 24:15).

Our choices can change our lives and the lives of those around us (positively or negatively). Think about the choices of Cain, Joseph's brothers, Korah, Dathan and Abiram; or Cornelius, the Philippian jailer and the spouse of an unbelieving person (1 Corinthians 7:16).



Let's study the Biblical advice on general decision-making and on making some of the most important choices in our lives.

● HOW TO CHOOSE

- Free choice
- Making the right choices

● WHAT TO CHOOSE

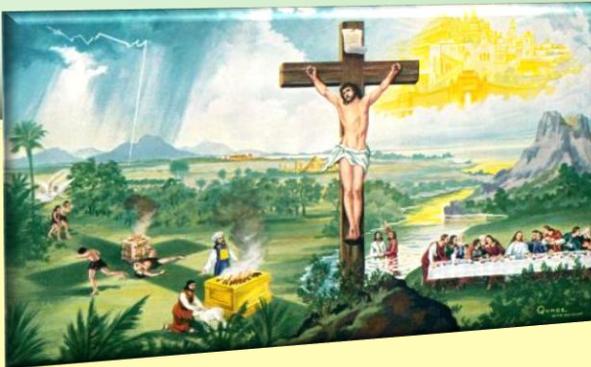
- Choosing friends
- Choosing a life partner
- Choosing a course

FREE CHOICE

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.”
(1 Peter 2:15-16)

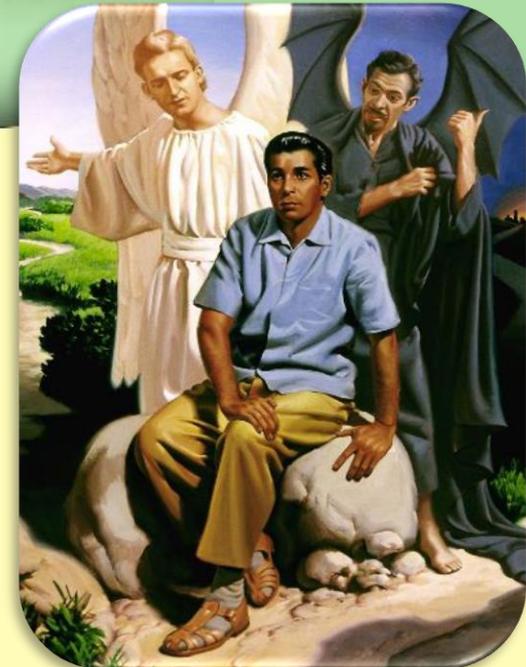
The Bible explains that God created us with free will. That is, we are free to choose, and God encourages us to make the right choices (Galatians 5:13; Deuteronomy 30:19).

Sin limits our free will, but we are completely free in Jesus (John 8:36).



In His love, God already chose us for eternal life before we were created (Ephesians 1:4).

However, we must make the daily decision of accepting that salvation (John 3:16; Joshua 24:15).



“The character we cultivate, the attitude we assume today, is fixing our future destiny. We are all making a choice, either to be with the blessed, inside the City of Light, or to be with the wicked, outside the city.”

E.G.W. (Reflecting Christ, October 16)

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow [a]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit' [...] Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'" (James 4:13-15)

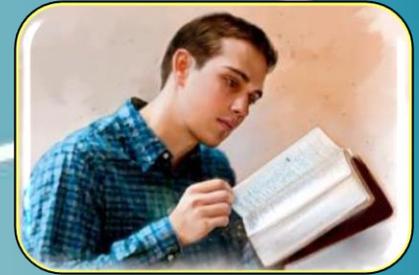
Convenience, cultural trends, peer pressure, emotions, habits, and mere preferences are unreliable guides for choices. According to the Bible, how can we make the right choices?



Pray before choosing
(1 Thessalonians 5:17;
James 1:5)



Be willing to obey God
(Isaiah 1:19;
Matthew 7:24-25)



Study the Bible
(Psalm 119:105;
2 Timothy 3:16)



Trust God
(Proverbs 3:5-6;
Isaiah 58:11)



**Seek wise
counselors**
(Proverbs
15:22; 24:6)



CHOOSING FRIENDS

“Do not be a friend of one who has a bad temper, and never keep company with a hothead, or you will learn his ways and set a trap for yourself.” (Proverbs 22:24-25 NOG)

The friends we choose may guide us to the right or to the wrong path.

A good friend “loves at all times” and is a brother “for a time of adversity” (Proverbs 17:17 NIV).

Friendship is a bidirectional relationship: “A man who has friends must himself be friendly” (Proverbs 18:24).

Jonathan and David are a great example of unconditional friendship. David was going to take Jonathan’s place, but Jonathan didn’t take him as a rival but humbly offered his friendship instead.



CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)



Choosing friends is important, but choosing the person with whom we're going to share our entire life is much more important.

The best way to make the right choice is to ask God for guidance (Genesis 24:7).

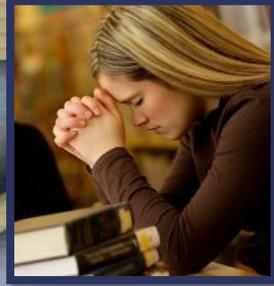
There's another good piece of advice in Isaac and Rebekah's story: look for a Christian partner (Genesis 24:3-4).

If we want a successful marriage, we must begin by being the right person ourselves (Psalm 37:27; 119:97; 1Co. 15:33; James 1:23-25). We must be willing to treat our spouse as we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

“The choice of a life companion should be such as best to secure physical, mental, and spiritual well-being for parents and for their children—such as will enable both parents and children to bless their fellow men and to honor their Creator.”

E.G.W. (Letters to Young Lovers, p. 14)

CHOOSING A COURSE



“Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.” (Ecclesiastes 5:18)

Unless working full-time at home taking care of the house and family (the most noble of all occupations), many people have to choose a path as far as earning a living goes.

The first step is to choose a learning path related to the desired job career, if possible. Every choice must follow the next key principle: “whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

On the other hand, work must never be the center of our lives (see Ecclesiastes 2:1-11). Remember that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1Ti. 6:10).



“Let us remember that while the work we have to do may not be our choice, it is to be accepted as God’s choice for us. Whether pleasing or unpleasing, we are to do the duty that lies nearest. ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.’ Ecclesiastes 9:10”

“What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”