Wise Choices

1. God creates us all with free-will and the power to make choices. Life is about making the right choices each day. What is right and what is wrong? What is a priority and what is not? Some of life's important choices are: 1) obedience to parents or not; 2) whether or not to finish school; 3) what kind of job will I have; 4) who will I marry; 5) who will be my friends; and 6) will I become and remain a faithful Christian? The most important choice we must make is whether or not we will serve God or someone else (Eccl. 12:1; Mt. 6:24; Rom. 6:16) –there is no "middle ground" (Mt. 12:30).

2. God sets a choice before us each day – life or death, blessing or curse (Deut. 30:15-20).

3. Many people rely upon their own thoughts and opinions to make daily choices (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23). Some people make choices by simply following others (Ex. 23:2). People like this will not "choose the fear of the Lord" (Prov. 1:29).

4. Christians make wise choices each day by using God's word as their guide (Psa. 119:9, 11, 105).

5. Individuals like Joshua (Josh. 24:15) and Moses (Heb. 11:24-25) stand out for making the right choice. Individuals like Lot (Gen. 13:11) are known for making the wrong choice.

6. Here are some questions that we can ask ourselves to determine the right choice to make:

Is the choice right or wrong within itself? (Gal. 5:19-21)

Does my conscience approve or disapprove of my choice? (Rom. 14:22-23)

What affect will my choice have on my physical (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20) and spiritual life (Mt. 5:16)?

Will my choice glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31) Will I cause others to stumble with what I choose? (1 Cor. 10:32-33)

Will God approve of the choice he sees me making? (Prov. 44:21)

What would godly individuals say of my choice? (Prov. 12:15; 19:20)

7. When we make the wrong choices and then learn from our mistakes, we need to return to God and do what is right (Lk. 15:11-20; 22:31-34).

8. It is important to pray each day: "Lord, help me to make right choices this day" (see Psalm 25:12).