

Banner: The Sure Word

Title: Choices

From the very beginning of man's existence God gave man the freedom to choose his own spiritual direction in life. God told the first couple that they could eat of the fruit of every tree in the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them that if they chose to partake of its fruit that they would surely die (Genesis 2:17). Satan recognized that God had given Adam and Eve the ability to make choices for he essentially accused God of lying to them about choosing to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, saying "You shall **not** surely die." (Genesis 3:4). In essence the devil was indicating that the right choice to make was to go ahead and eat of the forbidden fruit. Was that the right choice? No!! It was the devil who lied, not God. Because Adam and Eve chose the wrong spiritual direction in violating God's command they suffered the consequences for that wrong choice (Genesis 3:15-19).

You and I face similar choices in life – the choice to obey God or to violate His divine will. Satan uses the same basic tactics to influence our choices as he did with Adam and Eve. The consequences for choosing to believe Satan's lies are just as certain as those experienced by Adam and Eve. It is still true that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This is spiritual death – separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Friends, Satan continues to lie in his effort to deceive us. He wants us to make wrong choices and uses the agency of wicked men and women, false teaching and every devious method at his disposal to influence our choices (1 Peter 5:8).

The Bible, which is God's revelation of His will to all of humanity, is the only genuine and infallible source to guide us in making right choices. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32) thus affirming that truth not only exists but it is also knowable. Jesus identified what is truth when He prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Since we can know the truth it follows that we may also know error. In other words, we can know what is right and what is wrong. Each of us must choose either to believe the truth and do what the truth tells us is right or reject the truth and do wrong. But to reject the truth means one must accept the certain consequences for the wrong that one does. Each of us are accountable to God whether we choose to believe and obey the truth or not. Rejecting the truth does not change the truth nor the consequences for rejecting it (2 Corinthians 5:10). Dear reader, are you choosing life or death? Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Road Hazel, KY.42049. Phone: 270-492-8206.