

Morality: Choosing God
Lesson 1 – Choose God

1. Choices
 - 1.1. Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death.
 - 1.2. Joshua 24:15 - “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.”
2. The United States can no longer count itself as a Christian nation. America rejected God in the latter part of the last century, and it continues today, because a counterculture arose that wanted to be free from what they perceived to be "limits" that God put on them. And while the Christian community slept, or was in pursuit of less significant things, they were able to win the battle over truth and right. So, the counterculture became the culture. They now occupy the positions of greatest power in the land. They govern, and continue their attacks on Christian faith and morals almost daily. They could never have done what they've done, or are doing, if the Christian community had been awake and faithful. Look around and consider where the country has gone while some Christians have held a position of non-involvement and “political correctness” by keeping our mouths shut! Most of us would prefer not to think so, but our nation is on the decline. Do you doubt me?
 - 2.1. We Christians live in a land where one million children and teenagers get pregnant every year.
 - 2.2. We Christians live in a land where our young people are increasingly turning to suicide as a means of escaping their despair.
 - 2.3. We Christians live in a land where, since 1960, the number of families destroyed by divorce has increased over 200%
 - 2.4. We Christians live in a land where fathers spend over 50 hours a week in front of their televisions while spending an average of 7 ½ MINUTES with their children!
 - 2.5. We Christians live in a land where the most dangerous place for a child to be is inside its mother's womb. Every year over 1.5 million innocent children are tortured to death through abortion. Many of these deaths are financed by our tax dollars.
 - 2.6. We Christians live in a land where it is now legal to harvest the organs of a living baby provided the child has not been fully delivered from its mother's body. The tiny baby's body is turned by forceps so as to be delivered feet first. When all but the child's head has exited the birth canal, modern-day Jack the Ripper's begin their work. The harvester will take a spoon-shaped knife called a curette and remove from this squirming, unmedicated baby whatever organs are desired. After the

- deed is done, the tiny murder victim is fully expelled and thrown into the trash to be burned in an incinerator.
- 2.7. We Christians live in a land where God has been kicked out of school and premarital sex education and condoms have been enrolled.
 - 2.8. We Christians live in a land where homosexuality has been given civil rights. In many places, homosexuals can legally marry and adopt children.
 - 2.9. We Christians live in a land where 48 states have legalized some form of gambling.
 - 2.10. We Christians live in a land where our tax dollars subsidize "art" depicting such ungodliness as one man urinating into the mouth of another.
 - 2.11. We Christians live in a land where women and children are victimized and dehumanized through pornographic movies and magazines being sold on street corners everywhere.
 - 2.12. Look at these facts and tell me who is winning the war for the souls of this country?
3. When Christians choose not to speak out, the full impact of Christian influence is not felt. If Christians can be led or frightened into non-involvement, others can pretty well have their own way. And, no one would be surprised that in such a void of Christian influence, the nation would suffer a downturn in Christian morals and ethics.
 - 3.1. The job of a Christian is to demonstrate and proclaim God's will whether or not others are willing to listen and abide. Paul tells Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:1-4, "I charge [thee] in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." "In season, out of season" means whether people want to hear the truth or not!
 4. Jesus intends for his disciples to make a difference. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus tells us:
 - 4.1. **13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men.**
 - 4.1.1. Salt was precious in the first century. There was a Roman saying, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." Salt was used for preserving and flavoring. Up until the modern days of refrigeration, salt was used as a preserver. Jesus compares Christians to salt. Christians are to the human race what salt is to food. They are a preserving influence and they give flavor to life. Christians live a good moral life and remind the world that there is a standard of morality. They add quality to life.

4.1.2. Pure salt does not lose its force. Salt becomes of no value when it is polluted and thus loses its strength. The Christian has an influence for good, but when he becomes polluted by sin, he is of no value to God or man. Even though evil men may not appreciate Christians, they are of great value to the world. They not only demonstrate the true way of life, they show the way to God as they preach the gospel. Salt works silently.

4.2. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.

4.2.1. Light is opposed to darkness. When there is light, there is no darkness. Light in the scriptures indicates the true knowledge of God (Psalm 36:9; Matthew 6:22-23). Light also indicates goodness, righteousness and truthfulness (Ephesians 5:8-9) and joy, gladness, true happiness, love and right living. Darkness indicates evil, moral corruption and sin. God is light (1 John 1:5). He is the Father of lights (James 1:17). Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). Jesus was a light to those in darkness (John 3:19). Conversion is turning from darkness to light (Acts 26:18). Christians are to reflect the light. They do this as they live the Christian life. One cannot hide a city upon a hill. This prepares one for the next verse.

4.3. 15 Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house.

4.3.1. Christians are not to be of the world, but they are to be in the world. There are two extremes. Some become so worldly their light no longer shines. Others retreat from the world and their light cannot be seen. God wants his people to live the Christian life in the world where their life can be seen. People in darkness need to see Christian living.

4.4. 16 Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

4.4.1. In the same way a Christian is to live his life in the world. The world will see the good deeds of the Christian and his life. There is a difference in the life of one who is seeking first the kingdom of God and of one who is living only for self. A Christian lives the good life and does good deeds not to glorify himself, but to glorify his Father who is in heaven. The Christian does not think about what he has done, but what God has done through him. His intent is not to impress men, but to please God. This type of life brings glory to God. Such a life is characterized by loving God with all one's heart. And this results in keeping the commandments of God, motivated by love.

5. What Hinders Us from Choosing God?

5.1. Fear

5.1.1. Noah – Gen. 6

5.1.1.1. 1 Sam. 15:24

5.1.1.2. Matt. 10:28

5.1.1.3. Heb. 13:6

5.1.1.4. Phil. 4:13

5.2. Peer Pressure

5.2.1. Gal. 1:10

5.2.2. Moses (Red Sea; Ex. 14:11-14)

5.2.3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan.3)

5.2.4. Apostles (Day of Pentecost; Acts 2)

5.2.5. Stephen (Sermon to Sanhedrin; Acts 7)

5.3. Feeling that decision benefits me

6. Choose God

6.1. In his farewell address to Israel, Joshua calls for a decision:

6.1.1. "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

6.1.2. "No one can serve two masters..." (Matt. 6:24)

6.2. We are NOT alone!

6.2.1. Christ prays for us begging the Father's blessings to be with the disciples who were to be in the world, but not of the world. (John 17:11-16)

6.2.2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

6.2.3. 1 Cor. 10:13

6.2.4. 2 Peter 1:3

6.2.5. 2 Peter 3:9