

EVERYONE MUST CHOOSE—ONE WAY OR ANOTHER (1)

By Keith Greer

“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.” {Joshua 24:15} Joshua confronted the Children of Israel, telling them they MUST make a choice concerning their allegiance.

Today, mankind faces the same choice—God or the world. The prophet Joel said essentially the same thing, but in a different way, “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” {Joel 3:14} Sadly, in our time millions of people are seeking to avoid making choices. Those who follow this course have already determined to rebel against God and refuse His offers. All the people in the world are confronted with making choices concerning their spiritual duties before God. Each person’s eternal dwelling place depends on the choices he makes in this life. Let us examine some of the choices available to us...

Two Rulers. One is Christ; the other is Satan. Satan—“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” {2 Corinthians 4:3,4} Yes, we can choose to allow Satan, the ruler of this world, to blind us to the truth. Christ—“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” {Matthew 28:18} Satan can’t make us do anything, and neither can Christ. Satan offers the pleasures of this world; Christ offers heaven’s grandeur throughout eternity. **CHOOSE.**

Two Foundations. One is a rock; the other is shifting sand. “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” {Matthew 7:24-27} The one who builds on a rock hears and obeys the Lord’s teaching and conditions. He who builds on shifting sand hears the word, understands what it requires of them, but fails to obey. One brings stability—the other uncertainty. **CHOOSE.**

Two Roads. One is broad; the other is narrow. “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” {Matthew 7:13,14} These two roads have very different destinations. The narrow, is confined and restricted. One follows the Lord’s way and avoid any distractions that might side-track him. The broad way, is wide and accommodating to all types of thinking. One can get on or off at any time. The two destinations couldn’t be farther apart. The broad leads to destruction, and the narrow leads to eternal life. **CHOOSE.**

Can you see a pattern in these first three sets of choices? Choosing God's way requires commitment, dedication, self-control and respect for authority. Satan's way requires no commitment, no dedication, and calls for little or no self-control. One can think and do whatever comes into his head. From an earthly vantage point, Satan's ways appear to be much easier. But one thing is true about the choices offered by Satan—he hides their real costs and consequences. Remember that as we examine other sets of choices in the next article. One must be very careful in their selection process because they can have many hidden difficulties ahead. What appears to be easy may not, in the long run, be so easy.
