

Are You Making The Right Choices?

(Part IV)

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** before his death, Joshua called on Israel to make a “choice” (Josh. 24:14-15)
 - believe in God and serve Him, or serve pagan gods and idols of earth
 - warned, they would have to live with the consequences of their decision
- we have to make choices in life, and each one effects our salvation and eternal home in some way

➤ - PP: review

- choose: happy or sad, positive or negative, friend or enemy, good or bad reputation, how we deal with mistakes, how busy we are with secular affairs, how spiritual we are, how much work we do in the kingdom

➤ We choose whether to be saved or lost – spend eternity in heaven or hell

- Calvinism false doctrine - person has no choice, God predetermines whether we are saved or lost
 - briefly overview Calvinism
 - 1 Tim. 2:4 “desires”
 - because He doesn’t make us, gives us a choice – we must choose to be saved and obey
 - 2 Pet. 3:9 “patient” “not wishing” (“willing”)
 - because He doesn’t make us, gives us a choice – we must choose to be saved and obey
 - salvation is a choice

➤ - choose to save ourselves – chose to obey and be saved, follow through

- Acts 2:37b-38, 40 “Save yourselves” “Be saved”
 - **illus.:** drowning man, passing boat, crewman threw lifeline, man grabbed and was pulled aboard boat, said, “Thanks for saving me!”
 - man had to do something to be saved or would be lost, had to grab lifeline and hold on
 - we have to do something to be saved or we’ll be lost – obey Jesus
 - believe, repent, confess, baptized, faithfully serve

➤ - Ja. 2:14, 17, 19 choose which type of faith we have

- vs. 14b faith that saves us or faith that doesn’t – eternal life, damnation
- vs. 17, 26 living faith or dead faith – working, not working, one that saves us or not
- vs. 19 faith of child of God or demon
- **illus.:** faith like Abraham, offered Isaac, faith reckoned as righteousness (Ja. 2:21-23)
 - not faith only (vs. 24)
- **illus.:** faith like Rahab, like Abraham, received spies and sent out another way (Ja. 2:25)
- **illus.:** house on fire middle of night, fireman wakes everyone up and tells them to follow him, one believed and obeyed, one not believe and died in the fire
 - house fire: had to save themselves by obeying and following fireman – life, death
 - salvation: fire is sin, escape by obeying Jesus – life, death

- - **examples: we must save ourselves**
 - **1 Pet. 3:20-21** baptism now saves us – choose to be baptized
 - analogy: **Noah and ark vs. salvation and baptism**, both saved by grace, both have to do something
 - **Acts 22:16** “Why are you waiting?” - Paul had to do something
 - **illus.: Paul’s choices**
 - **Acts 26:14** previously had kicked against goads – resisted making choice to obey
 - **Acts 9:18** then changed mind, made different choice, obeyed – baptized
 - **we must do something to be saved** – arise, be baptized vs. opposite
 - **we wash away our sins when we’re baptized** – we wash in the same sense as Acts 2:40
 - **we call on name of Lord when baptized** – Acts 4:??
 - **not prayer of faith** – Paul had been praying and fasting 3 days, still had to be baptized to be saved
- - **Rev. 3:15-16, 19-21** Laodicea, lukewarm, **zealous and repent, open door** (Christians who sinned), overcome, sit down with Jesus on His throne, hear
 - vs. **20** “if” hear and open, zealous and repent, overcome – choice
 - must do something, have a choice regarding our salvation
- - **Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21** all Christians must overcome
 - **choice**, rewarded if we do, punishment if we don’t
 - **Phil. 2:12-13** obey God, work out own salvation with fear and trembling, God is at work in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure

- **as Christians, we obey the Lord** and thus save ourselves – grab hold of the lifeline and not let go
 - **choices**

- **We choose God over the world (Satan)** – choose not to be like the world
 - **Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23** most people aren’t going to choose to be saved – not choose to obey God
- - **2 Cor. 6:14, 17** choice not to be bound with unbelievers, not have partnership, be separate
 - **Matt. 6:24** can’t serve two masters, God and wealth (God and Satan)
 - **to choose God and salvation is to reject the world**, can’t choose both

- **warning / temptation:**
 - **to keep up with all our worldly friends** is to be lost with them – **choices**
 - **to be like the world** is to be lost with the world – **choices**
 - **Ja. 4:4** friendship with the world is hostility toward God, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God
 - “wish” to be like world, “make” ourselves God’s enemy – **desire – choices**

- **as Christians, we choose to obey God, and choose to reject the world (Satan)**
 - **choices**

choose whether to save ourselves, choose not to be like the world

End Part IV

- **inv.:** **choose** whether to be a Christian or not

- **Josh. 24:15** “choose for yourselves today whom you will serve” - “but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

- **Acts 2:37b-38, 40** “Save yourselves” “Be saved”

- **illus.:** **song #280, I Have Decided To Follow Jesus**