

Making the Right Decisions

Introduction

What a title huh? We have heard that phrase so many times we have grown numb to it. Another phrase is “**make the right choices.**” Our parents voiced both these phrases to us from our youth. Since they have stuck with us, we tell them to our children. What a cycle of words we live in.

Pastor Dale, what are you getting at? I was reading a monthly partner letter from one of the ministries we support and it struck a chord. In this letter, it mentions the age-old question that plagues everyone, especially pastors, “**why do bad things happen to good people?**”

We hear many answers to this question, but nothing like how the letter answered it. I really do not think any pastors, preachers, or ministers ever thought of the answer. After reading the letter a couple of times, I understood the explanation.

Quit Giving God a Bad Rap!

People think God causes everything, but it is completely wrong. They forget Satan causes bad things to happen to us. **1 Peter 5:8**, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” Very true, but that is not the answer to the question.

The answer to the question is we make **bad choices**. **Deuteronomy 30:19** and please remember this is God talking, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live.”

Sometimes Good People Make Bad Choices

Simply, good people make bad choices. We are all guilty of it. Even in my years walking with Jesus, I made decisions I regret. I listened to some Christians that I thought had it all figured out, but they follow what tradition teaches and not the truth of God.

My hard-living left because God showed me a better way and I made the choice to follow God's way. My anger fits took a little longer. God showed me how to channel my anger to wage war on Satan, to preach, and bring others to Christ.

An example of good people making bad choices is what Israel did after becoming free after 430 years in Egyptian bondage. They made some poor choices and their journey in the wilderness was prolonged from 11 days to 40 years. Read the entire book of Numbers that records the entire 40 years of wandering in Sinai before Joshua took them over to Israel.

Proverbs 1:28-29, "Then they will call upon me but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord." Again, simply, they **CHOOSE NOT TO COME OR LISTEN TO GOD!**

Jesus verified Proverbs 1:28-29 in Matthew 22:1-14, The Parable of the Wedding Feast. Take a good look at **verses 2-3**, which shows the key, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come." These two verses say it all. **HOW CAN GOD BLESS YOU WHEN YOU CHOOSE NOT TO COME!**

Example of a Bad Choice

God called me to pastoral ministry in 2005 and I chose not to listen. He had my mentor ready to receive me and I just did not listen until 2006 after my father went to be with Jesus. In 2011, God told me that my mentoring is complete, but I need a formal education. It was not until 2015 when I finally chose to listen and obtain my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. If I would have listened to God in the first place, I would have received His blessing much sooner.

I can go on and on about making bad choices or decisions and I am sure you can too. Just because a Christian makes a bad choice or decision, God is not going to forsake them, and not remove them from His grace. It does not work like that at all. Salvation is a gift from God that in no way can you give it back to Him. It was provided for **EVERYONE**, not because of what you ever did, but because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Conclusion

Jesus gave His life for us for many things such as reconciliation to God, redemption from the curse, forgiveness of all past, present, and future sins, healing, total prosperity (read [Don't Bash the Preacher](#)), love, joy, peace, and much more than we could ever imagine. God wants to bless you, but you need to make the **CHOICE** to delight in His ways (**Psalm 37:23**), so your steps will be established by the Lord in making good choices and decisions, Amen!

I am Dale Van De Bogart and I approve of this message!

If you are reading this and have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, what are you waiting for? Click on Free Gift at the top of any page on our website and make Jesus the Lord of your life **TODAY!** Remember, read your Bible daily, it's good food!

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