



The Good News

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Making Wise Choices

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One of the unfortunate truths about being human is that we will inevitably make mistakes in our lives. When we remember these errors, we may cringe and force the memory out of our head as to not think about how foolish we were. Another unfortunate truth is that human beings tend to have very long memories, especially when it comes to our own mistakes. However, one bright side is that we can learn from the error and make the necessary adjustments so as not to make the same mistake again. Human beings are very adaptable, and we can change if we so desire. What might be a little more difficult is to look at someone else's mistakes and learn to make the same adjustments. One reason why this is more difficult is that the mistake was not ours...therefore the motivation to adjust and adapt my behavior comes not from a desire to avoid repeating a mistake, but rather a desire to never make the mistake at all. The motivation becomes proactive rather than reactive. Another reason why this may tend to be more difficult is that, when looking at another's life, we may see mistakes that do not exist, or not see mistakes that do exist. It is difficult to be objective when our only context for conduct is that which we can only observe, rather than being in the mind of the person. God asks us to do precisely this when we consider the lives, and mistakes, of others in the Old Testament.

In I Cor. 10:1-11 Paul writes concerning the Israelites, "Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." He also says, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." We find that the examples of the Old Testament and the accounts of

all those who have come before were given to us as examples of what not to do and, as Heb. 11 teaches us, of what to do. However, there is a great disconnect between us and those of old, isn't there? They were a people of strange customs by our standards. We might think that they often reacted in ways perhaps we would never react. God dealt differently with them than He does with us in that they could see His incredible power first hand by way of wonders and signs. How can we possibly put ourselves in their minds and shoes and learn from their mistakes and successes? How can we see these individuals objectively and adjust our own character where necessary? We must find a common thread that links us to them. There is a common thread that links us even to Adam and Eve, and when we understand that connection, we can better prepare ourselves. The connection is choice with regard to God's will: will we obey, or will we rebel? Adam and Eve faced this choice, as did the Israelites on numerous occasions. We face this choice every day of every week. Will we accept God's will rather than our own? Or will we reject what God promises and live our own lives away from God? The choice is ours to make, and every decision, every mistake, can take us further away from God or can bring us nearer.

How did your choices last week affect your relationship with God? Did they cause you to draw nearer to him? Were they choices that stemmed from a heart that was able to hear, see, and walk in the way God intends? Or did your choices take you away from God, resulting in being spiritually deaf, blind, and lame? Learn from your choices last week and adapt your thoughts and conduct to make choices today, tomorrow, and the rest of the week that will bring you closer to God and His Son.