

Life's Daily Decisions

- Today, we're going to talk about our day to day choices and why they matter
- **[2 Timothy 4:1-6 ESV] [1] I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: [2] preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. [3] For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. [5] As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. [6] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.**
 - This is the beginning of the last chapter of the last letter that Paul will write (as part of the canon of scripture)
 - Paul knows he is close to death
 - Equipping Timothy - protege in his 30s
 - Final charge - important
 - **[1] I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:**
 - Paul speaks with authority and conviction
 - Timothy will face thousands of decisions, and Paul is equipping him to know how to navigate them.:
 - **[2] preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**
 - Decide right now...
 - Wherever you go and at every moment, be prepared to preach the word
 - Reprimand, disapprove, and encourage according to truth regardless of the situation
 - Don't abandon truth for your own comfort
 - **[3] For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**
 - Decide right now, because a time will come when people won't listen to you, and you are to do it anyway
 - "Timothy responsible for obedience, not outcome"
 - It's going to be hard - they won't like you - you may be alone
 - Decide right now to be obedient
 - **[5] As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**
 - "Sober-minded" - Decide to be calm and collected
 - Keep your eyes on Jesus and seek obedience
 - "Endure suffering" - Decide to go through the trials and not go around them
 - Different than discerning God's Will based on open doors
 - Do the work of an evangelist and decide to fulfill your ministry
 - Implication that he could choose to leave ministry unfulfilled
 - **[6] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

- Paul is enduring suffering of his own near the end of his life and is “being poured out as a drink offering”
 - Jesus said: **[Luke 22:20 ESV] [20] And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.**
 - He was referring to his own blood being offered to cover our sins
 - Paul's language refers to his sharing in Christ's suffering:
 - **[Romans 8:16-18 ESV] [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. [18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**
 - There are rewards in heaven for those who share in Christ's sufferings.
 - **[1 Peter 4:13 ESV] [13] But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.**
 - Biblical principle from both Paul and Peter
 - Rejoice if you get an opportunity to share in Christ's sufferings
- Back to vs. 7: **[7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**
 - Paul just encouraged Timothy to fulfill his ministry, and here he is saying:
 - I have chosen to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith
 - He's speaking of his own life and ministry
 - **[2 Corinthians 11:24-28 ESV] [24] Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; [26] on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; [27] in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. [28] And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.**
 - His circumstances aren't a factor in his decision making process
 - How often do we let “things that are hard” keep us from “things that are right?”
- **[8] Henceforth (from this point forward) there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.**
 - In light of Paul's choosing to be obedient and face the trials, he lays out what he has to look forward to
 - Not just him, but also “all who have loved his appearing”
- **[9] Do your best to come to me soon. [10] For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.**
 - Vs 10 - Demas decided to desert Paul because he was “in love with this present world”
 - Paul just described the (future world) in which “there is laid up for (him) the crown of righteousness.” (v8)
 - This is the prize that awaits him for choosing to fight the good fight, choosing to run the race, and choosing to keep the faith. (v7)
 - NOT Salvation

- Quality of eternal life
 - These two men made different choices
 - Paul was seemingly undeterred and chose to endure his suffering
 - Demas was in love with the present world and chose to do something else
- Let's break down the anatomy our decisions
 - **1) Everything we do is the result of a decision**
 - Daily activities
 - Get out of bed, brush teeth, etc.
 - We don't "have to" do anything - you "choose" to
 - We **choose** the activity of our lives.
 - You don't have to work at the same place as yesterday
 - No one "makes" you do anything
 - Adam tried this one - Blamed God for Eve
 - They just ate the fruit and made clothing from fig leaves
 - **[Genesis 3:8-12 ESV] [8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10] And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11] He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12] The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."**
 - Adam **CHOSE** to sin, otherwise God would not have held him accountable
 - God certainly gives us more than we can handle, but will NEVER leave us without the ability to choose righteousness
 - **[1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV] [13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**
 - Every sin we have committed was a result of a choice
 - He's a GOOD God
 - People sign God up for all kinds of things He didn't promise
 - Everything turn out ok, healing
 - This is an actual promise that you should pray when you feel a temptation is unbearable
 - If you feel tempted... ask God and He WILL provide a way of escape
 - If everything we do is a result of a decision, this means that no one can "make you mad", or "make you happy"
 - Nobody else has the ability to force you to react a certain way.
 - We aren't robots
 - We feel angry, and choose to yell at the kids
 - Everything we do is a result of a decision
- **2) Our choices reflect our values** - worldview / perspective of what you believe to be true
 - Paul's values were eternal

- Eyes fixed on future glory
 - Naturally drove decisions / choices over course of his ministry
 - Charging Timothy to do the same
- Demas' values rested in the present world.
 - Certainly heard Truth and probably became a Believer
 - He held onto his love for the world
 - His emotions / motivations / passions / decisions sprung from that which he valued
 - Didn't fulfill his ministry
- Another example:
 - **[Mark 10:17-31 ESV] [17] And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" [18] And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.**
 - Weird response
 - Jesus was testing the man to see if he knew who Jesus was
 - **[19] You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"**
 - Some think this is Jesus' answer to the question of how to be saved
 - Another test to see if the man knew who he was (how he saw himself)
 - **[20] And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."**
 - Fail - doesn't see his sin
 - **[21] And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."**
 - Jesus said he lacked ONE thing
 - Then told him to do THREE things:
 - Go, sell all you have
 - Give it to the poor
 - Come follow me
 - What is the one thing the man lacked, that would allow him to CHOOSE to do those other three things?
 - Belief (faith)
 - Jesus communicated two things in this response:
 - He lacked one thing for salvation (belief)
 - How to have treasure in Heaven
 - Sell, give, follow
 - Look at v21 again - "And Jesus, looking at him, LOVED HIM"
 - Out of love and compassion, Jesus was offering eternal life
 - Beyond that, trading temporary treasures for eternal ones
 - "Come, follow me" was the same invitation Jesus gave to disciples
 - **[22] Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. [23] And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"**
 - This man's riches blinded him to his need for a savior
 - He already had the things he valued, & those values drove his decision
 - Our choices reflect our values

- **3) Saying yes to anything means saying no to other things**
 - Culture says we can have it all
 - Career / Family / Friends / Money / etc
 - World will tell you that this is the goal (happy life)
 - God may choose to give you many of those things - but they shouldn't be our goal
 - If we value those things, then the pursuit of them will drive the decisions of life
 - Serving two masters
 - **[Luke 16:13 ESV] [13] No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."**
 - If you have a master, you are a servant and he is in charge.
 - He has priorities, goals, vision for your future.
 - By definition, you can't be the servant to two masters.
 - Both have authority over you and neither one would be happy.
 - Constantly deciding which one to listen to
 - Luke uses example of serving God and money
 - They represent different values
 - "Hate one and love the other" or "be devoted to one and despise the other"
 - He is saying that we will demonstrate our love and devotion to one or the other (through daily choices)
 - **[Galatians 5:16-17 ESV] [16] But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17] For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**
 - Notice the daily choice to live by the Spirit or by the flesh?
 - Lately, I've done a little inventory of my decisions
 - Which ones am I in denial about?
 - Telling myself I didn't have a choice or someone made me
 - Which ones have been made out of values that don't align with the Spirit of God?
 - What am I saying "No" to because I said "Yes" to something I shouldn't?
 - Expensive car vs. giving
 - Career vs. Godly parent
 - Desire for popularity vs. Being the same person
 - Safety vs. Fulfilling your ministry
 - May have some regrets
 - I don't want to waste this life that He bought with a price.
 - **[Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV] [22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; [23] they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**
 - God is faithful, even though I'm not
 - He never runs out of mercy for us
 - Ask the Lord to help you walk by the Spirit in the decisions that are ahead of you.
 - He may even give you a redo on some of the ones behind you.