

CHOOSE LIFE

- The Meaning
- The Possibility
- The Necessity

Good morning!

The title of the lesson is, “**CHOOSE LIFE**”.

In the book of DEUTERONOMY, we have a SCENE of Israel standing on the verge of finally receiving the fulfillment of promises, made to Abraham over 400 years earlier; **The Nation Needed to be Reminded, of What the Future Possibilities were.**

Moses, before he died, felt great responsibility (cf Heb 3:2) to challenge the people of Israel to “**CHOOSE LIFE**”.

We’ll be reading from the book of [Deuteronomy, chapter 30](#), beginning in [verse 15](#), through [verse 20](#).

- “See, I have **SET** before thee this day, **life and good**, and **death and evil**;
¹⁶ in that, I **COMMAND** thee this day to **LOVE** the Lord Thy God,
to **WALK** in His ways, and to **KEEP** His commandments and His statutes and His judgments,
that thou mayest **LIVE** and multiply:
and the Lord Thy God shall bless thee in the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

¹⁷ But **IF** thine heart **TURN AWAY**, so that thou wilt **NOT HEAR**,
but shalt be **DRAWN AWAY**, and worship **OTHER** gods, and **SERVE** them;

¹⁸ I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely **PERISH**,
and that ye shall **NOT** prolong your days upon the land,
whither thou passest over Jordan, to go to possess it.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to **RECORD** this day **AGAINST** you, that I have **SET** before you **life and death**,
 blessing and cursing: therefore **CHOOSE LIFE**, that both thou and thy seed **may LIVE**:

²⁰ that thou mayest **LOVE** the Lord Thy God, and that thou mayest **OBEY** His voice,
and that thou mayest **CLEAVE** unto Him: for **HE** is thy **Life**, and the length of thy days:...” ([Deut.30:15-20](#))

Notice with me, some thoughts concerning,

I. **The Meaning of Choosing Life**

A. “Life” is What We Have Lost in Sin

In the book of beginnings,

- “the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
¹⁷ **BUT** of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt **NOT** eat of it:
for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely **DIE**.” ([Gen.2:16-17](#))
- “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;
and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” ([Rom. 5:12](#))
- “For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([Rom.6:23](#))

The meaning of Choosing Life?

B. God Wants Us To HAVE “Life”

- “As I live, saith the Lord God, I have **NO pleasure** in the **DEATH** of the wicked; **BUT** that the wicked **TURN** from his (own) way **and LIVE**: turn ye, **TURN** ye from your evil ways; for **WHY** will ye **DIE**, O house of Israel?” ([Ezek.33:11](#))
- “And this is the **RECORD**, that **God hath GIVEN** to us **eternal LIFE**, and this Life is **IN His Son**.
¹² He that hath the Son, hath Life; and he that hath **NOT** the Son of God, hath **NOT** Life.” ([1Jn.5:11-12](#))

The meaning of Choosing Life, can be seen in,

C. The Savior’s Purpose and Mission

- “For the Son of man is **COME** to **SEEK**, and to **SAVE** that which was lost.” ([Lk.19:10](#))
- “The **THIEF** cometh not, but for to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**: **I AM come** (Jesus said) that they Might **have LIFE**, and that they Might **HAVE** it, **more ABUNDANTLY**.” ([Jn.10:10](#))

Perhaps that last statement was intended to include both eternal life in Heaven and the highest quality of abundant life, right now.

Paul gives a good commentary on this, in [1Tim.4:8](#)

- “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness** is **profitable** unto **ALL** things, having **PROMISE** of the **LIFE that NOW is**, **AND** of that which is **to COME**.” ([1Tim.4:8](#))

D. God Offers Life To Those Who WILL Be Reconciled To Him:

Which is the Highest and BEST of this Life, and the blessed Hope of Life hereafter

- “And now, brethren, I **COMMEND** you to **God**, and to the **Word** of His Grace, which is able to **BUILD** you **UP**, and to **GIVE** you an **INHERITANCE** among all them which are **SANCTIFIED**.” ([Acts 20:32](#))

Consider with me, some thoughts concerning,

II. The Possibility of Choosing Life

A. God Has Provided Us, This Opportunity, Through His Word

- “that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye **SHINE** as **LIGHTS** in the world;” ([Phil.2:15](#))
- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **HEARETH** My Word, and **BELIEVETH** on Him that sent Me, hath **everlasting LIFE**, and shall **NOT** **come** into condemnation; but is **passed FROM death unto LIFE**.” ([Jn.5:24](#))
- “It is the **SPIRIT** that **quickeneth**; the flesh profiteth nothing: the **Words** that I **speak** unto you, they are **SPIRIT**, and they are **LIFE**.” ([Jn.6:63](#))
- “Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was **NECESSARY** that the **Word of God** should **FIRST** have been Spoken to you: but seeing ye **PUT it FROM** you, and **judge YOURSELVES unworthy** of everlasting life, **LO**, we **TURN** to the Gentiles.” ([Acts 13:46](#))

Moses said,

- “For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.
¹² It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall GO up for us to heaven, and BRING it unto us, that we may **HEAR it, and DO it?** ¹³ **NEITHER** is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall GO over the sea for us, and BRING it unto us, that we may **HEAR it, and DO it?**
¹⁴ But the **Word** is very nigh unto thee, **IN** thy mouth, and **IN** thy heart, that thou mayest **DO it.**”
([Deut.30:11-14](#))
- In [Rom.10:5-10](#), “Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which **DOETH** those things shall Live by them.
⁶ But the righteousness which is of **FAITH** speaketh on this wise,

Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?
(that is, to bring Christ down from above:) ⁷ or, Who shall descend into the deep?
(that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) ⁸ **But what saith it?**

The **Word** is nigh thee, even **IN** thy mouth, and **IN** thy heart:
that is, the **Word** of **FAITH**, which we Preach;

⁹ that **IF** thou shalt confess **WITH** thy **MOUTH** the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe **IN** thine **HEART** that **God hath RAISED Him** from the dead, thou shalt be **SAVED**.

¹⁰ For with the **HEART** man believeth unto **RIGHTEOUSNESS**;
and with the **MOUTH** confession is made unto **SALVATION.**” (that’s [Rom.10:5-10](#))

- “But they have **NOT** all **OBEYED** the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report (or preaching)? ¹⁷ So then Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **Word of God.**” ([Rom.10:16-17](#))

The Possibility of Choosing Life is,

B. A Critical Point: The “Life” God Offers MUST be CHOSEN

- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that heareth say, **COME**. And let him that is athirst **COME**. And whosoever **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the water of Life **FREELY.**” ([Rev.22:17](#))

C. God has Endowed each of us with a Free Will, so that we are Capable of CHOOSING, either to Reciprocate His love, or to Refuse any good relationship with Him

- “He came unto His own, and His own **RECEIVED Him NOT.**” ([Jn.1:11](#))
- “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that **KILLEST** the prophets, and **STONEST** them which are Sent unto thee, how often, would I have Gathered thy children Together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would NOT!**
³⁸ Behold, your house is Left unto you Desolate.
³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not See Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that **COMETH** in the Name of the Lord.” ([Matt.23:37-39](#))

In Considering the Possibility of Choosing Life,

D. God Has Done All (that His wisdom and justice will allow) to PROVIDE “Life”, For Us Who Are Created In His Image.

But He will not compel us against our will, to LIVE.

- Life **IS** Within our Reach.
- But Life is entirely Our **Decision**, or Our **Choice**.

E. If We Insist on Attitudes and Conduct that Lead to Death, God Will Give Us OUR way -- ETERNALLY.

- Paul said in [Rom.2:4-11](#), “**DEPISSEST** thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; **NOT knowing** that the **GOODNESS** of God, **LEADETH** thee to Repentance?
⁵ but after thy **HARDNESS** and impenitent HEART treasurest up unto thyself **WRATH** against the **DAY** of wrath and revelation of the righteous **JUDGMENT** of God;
⁶ who will **RENDER** to every man according to his deeds:

⁷ **TO** them who **BY** patient Continuance **IN** Well **DOING** **SEEK** for glory and honour and immortality, **Eternal LIFE**:

⁸ **BUT** unto them that are Contentious, and **DO NOT OBEY** the Truth, but obey **UN**righteousness, **INDIGNATION** and **WRATH**, ⁹ **TRIBULATION** and **ANGUISH**, upon every soul of man that **DOETH EVIL**, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

¹⁰ but **GLORY, HONOUR, and PEACE**, to every man that **WORKETH GOOD**, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

¹¹ for there is no respect of persons with God.” (that’s [Rom.2:4-11](#))

- Jesus said, “ye **WILL NOT COME to Me**, that ye might Have **LIFE**.” ([Jn.5:40](#))

Consider with me, some thoughts concerning,

III. The Necessity of Choosing Life

A. Many Problems in Day-to-Day Living

Are Brought on By our, Reluctance to Make Needed CHOICES

- Joshua said, “**CHOOSE** you this day whom ye will serve;” ([Josh.24:15](#))
- Jerimiah said, “To whom shall I **SPEAK**, and give WARNING, that they may **HEAR?** **BEHOLD**, their Ear is Uncircumcised, and they CanNot Harken: **BEHOLD**, the Word of the Lord is unto them a REPROACH; they have NO delight IN it.” ([Jer.6:10](#))
- “Thus saith the Lord, **Stand** ye in the **Ways**, and **SEE**, and **ASK** for the old paths, **WHERE** is the **GOOD way**, and **WALK** therein, and ye shall **FIND REST** for your souls. But they said, We will NOT walk therein.” ([Jer.6:16](#))

In The Necessity of Choosing Life, we need to consider that,

B. God Loves Us; He Has Provided “Life” for Us At Great Cost

- “For God so Loved the world, that He **GAVE** His only begotten Son, that whosoever Believeth IN Him should **NOT** perish, **BUT** Have Everlasting LIFE.
¹⁷ For God sent **NOT** His Son into the world to condemn the world; **BUT** that the WORLD through Him, MIGHT BE SAVED.” ([Jn.3:16-17](#))

This passage sheds light, that it is the **WORLD’s** responsibility to **CHOOSE LIFE**.

Remember, belief in the Bible implies an active and aggressive Hearing and Doing, Not an empty, passive belief, as “the devils believe and tremble” ([Jas.2:19](#))

C. God's Desire is that we Repent and Come Back To Him

- “The Lord is **NOT** slack concerning His Promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **NOT** willing that any should perish, **BUT** that all should **COME** to Repentance.” ([2Pet.3:9](#))

The world must **CHOOSE** Repentance.

D. So Spiritually, We Can HAVE “Life” OR Death, but NOT Both

- Jesus said, “He that is **NOT** with Me, is **AGAINST** Me; and he that gathereth **NOT** with Me, scattereth abroad.” ([Matt.12:30](#))

In the Necessity of Choosing Life...

E. There is Urgent Need for us to CHOOSE

Don't ever forget [Deut.30:19](#), where Moses said,

- “I call heaven and earth to **RECORD** this day **AGAINST** you, that I have **SET** before you **life and death, blessing and cursing**: therefore **CHOOSE LIFE**, that both thou and thy seed **may LIVE**.” ([Deut.30:19](#))
- “**TODAY**, if ye will **HEAR** His Voice, harden not your hearts,” ([Heb.3:15](#))

IN-CONCLUSION:

Any who are gone to condemnation, would be glad if they could come back to **HEAR** again, invitations and warnings which they had slighted, put-off, ignored, refused, and rejected in the past.

May each one of us, be constrained to **CHOOSE LIFE**

- “And now why tarriest thou (that is, why wait)? arise, and Be **BAPTIZED**, and **WASH** away thy sins, **CALLING** on the Name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16](#))
- or **IF** you have **Need of Repentance** ([Lk.13:3](#))

Get RIGHT with the LORD, come NOW,
As together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
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Jabez Burns
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