

Series: Choices

**BE NOT UNWISE BUT
UNDERSTANDING
EPHESIANS 5:15-17**

Text: Ephesians 5:17

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¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Introduction:

As we begin this series on choices we certainly can all identify for life is full of choices.

The key issue in our choices is not that we would accomplish the will of man, or the will of an employer or a political party, but that we would accomplish the will of God.

Now, some say we cannot know the will of God, yet the scriptures reveal the opposite.

Remember:

“Every choice we make is a reflection of our values. We make choices based on what we value most.”

Proverbs 20:24

²⁴ Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Notice:

1. THE PRIORITY OF A RIGHT CHOICES

Note the reason for this priority:

A. Because Time Is Short

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

James 4:14

¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

The word "Redeem" – Means to make the most of.

Quote:

Napolean once said, “ there is in the midst of every great battle a ten to fifteen minute period that is the crucial point. Take that period and you win the battle.

Lose it and you will be defeated.

None of us knows how long our time will be.

John 9:4

⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Not only do we see the necessity of the right choice because of the shortness of time but also note:

B. Because the Days Are Evil

Our opportunities for freely doing right are often limited.

Illustration:

We live in evil Days – Most of the prime time television this season is promoting wickedness.

Not only do we see the necessity of the right choice because of the shortness of time and the days being evil but also note:

C. Because the Reward is Great

1 John 2:17

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Not only do we see the necessity of the right choice because of the shortness of time, the days being evil, and the great reward but also note:

D. Because the Option is Disobedience

1 Peter 4:2

² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Our overwhelming desire in decision making should be to seek the will of the Lord.

We all have the power of choice, but once we make the choice it has power over us.

Sadly millions of Americans are searching for approval in all the wrong places and making a lot of wrong choices.

May we not be unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is so that we may make “Right Choices”

Notice not only the “Priority of Making Right Choices” but also:

2. THE PATHWAY TO RIGHT CHOICES (VS. 15-16)

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We must find and function in the will of God. Outside of His will we will be weak, frustrated and ineffective.

How can we know the will of God?

Note:

A. Look to the Scriptures

The general principles for knowing God’s will are found in scripture.

Note:

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Psalm 119:9

⁹ *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

Psalm 119:11

¹¹ *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Many people do not make “Principle Based Decisions”

They rationalize, and thus become victims of their choices.

Illustration: Eve entertained the temptation of Satan

Not only must “Look to the Scripture” in order to know what the will of the Lord is but also we must:

B. Be Ready to Surrender

Romans 12:1-2

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may*

prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To know God's Will you must be available.

- To be available means to be accessible.

Too many believers have DO NOT DISTURB signs hanging on doorknobs in various areas of their lives.

- Being available also means being acceptable
- Being available also means being adaptable

We must be willing to adapt our plans to His.

Not only must "Look to the Scripture" and "Be Ready to Surrender" in order to know what the will of the Lord is but also we must:

C. Be Willing to Suffer

Remember:

God's purpose in suffering is our sanctification or purification.

Note 1 Peter 4:1-2

1 Peter 4:1-2

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1 Peter 4:19

¹⁹ Wherefore **let them that suffer according to the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Hebrews 11:24-25

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ **Choosing rather to suffer** affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Notice not only the “Priority of Making Right Choices” and the “Pathway To Right Choices” but also:

3. THE PRODUCT OF RIGHT CHOICES

Note:

A. Protection

Romans 8:13

¹³ *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

Not only is there “Protection” but also:

B. Purpose

Psalm 37:4

⁴ *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

When we are what God wants us to be, He is in control and our will is merged with His will, and He therefore gives us the desires He has planted in our hearts.

Not only is there “Protection” and “Purpose” but also:

C. Peace

- Peace In Following God’s Word

Psalm 119:165

¹⁶⁵ *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

There is no greater peace than the peace that comes from making a right choice.

“There is no softer pillow than a clear conscience.”

Close:

The most important choice we ever make is “What will I do with Jesus Christ?” It is His will that everyone could come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

³ *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;* ⁴ *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

Ephesians 5:17

¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

May we be understanding what the will of the Lord is and in knowing His will make right choices.