

The Choice is Yours, But ...

By Ronald Bartanen

There are some circumstances of life in which we are without a choice. Sickness and death are, in most instances, not of our choosing. If we are victims of assault, theft or a drunk driver, it is because others have made grievous choices in life, not ourselves. However, there are other roads of life which will be determined by our own choosing.

Jesus spoke of two roads of life (Matthew 7:13-14). One is a difficult, restrictive way, but not very popular. This road leads to life eternal. The other is a broad superhighway, with easy access which is much more popular, but it leads only to destruction and death. Each way involves both time and eternity. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...**

The Bible speaks of only two classes of responsible people in the world—the saved and the unsaved. The saved are those redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ”, having been obedient to the truth of the gospel (1 Peter 1:20, 22). The unsaved have not. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...**

There are two entities at work in the world, each seeking to gain the heart’s allegiance of every man, woman and child. The first is the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. In Him is no darkness, but eternal light. The other is the “Prince of Darkness,” a rebellious angel of great power who was cast out from the presence of Jehovah God because of his prideful rebellion. Each person must choose which to serve. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...**

One’s life may be spent in the pursuit of personal pleasure and gain, or one may put God’s kingdom and His righteousness above all other considerations. One may spend his days with no thought of serving and worshiping God, or one may be a worshiper of God, committing his life to God’s glory. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...**

There are only two destinies for man. For those who put their trust in the Redeemer of men, and submit by faith to Him, there is the promise of a place in the everlasting kingdom of God. Those who have rejected the kindness and grace of God must experience His consuming wrath, in company with the devil and his angels. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...**

BUT WHAT? BUT we will reap as we have sown (Galatians 6:7-9). You may choose the “easy way”, a way that is without God and without a Savior, and die in your sins, but the end is eternal condemnation. We plead with all to choose the way that leads to life everlasting. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS, BUT...YOUR CHOICE WILL HAVE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.**

*We now are on radio station KKMC 880. We have 60 second announcements 4 times each day seven days a week!
Stay tuned because there will be more coming.*

January 21, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

67 Eucalyptus Drive
Salinas, California 93905-2728
(831) 424-9800 or 726-1319
Paul McCollum, preacher
pulpitpaul@razzolink.com

*You are LOVED
and you are in our
prayers!*



Jude the Obscure

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



Jordan

This Week's Sermon's

A.M - How can an Individual Grow?
P.M. - What Does the Holy Spirit Do?



A NOBLE TASK

Ed Smithson

“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.” (1 Tim. 3:1 ESV) Here Paul is talking about the office of an overseer or elder. The qualifications mentioned in this passage and others are very stringent. I use the ESV in this quotation because the office of an elder is indeed “a noble task.”

To be a true elder in the church of our Lord takes a lot. First, the man must have certain character traits. Paul mentions some of them in this passage. First, he must be a seasoned person in the grace and work of a Christian. He cannot be a new convert.

He must also have certain other character traits. He must be “sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity, keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

While the language is quite clear in this and other passages for the kind of man the Lord wants to be in charge of His church, sometimes, for reasons of their own, some of them have been ignored. I remember one church in another state many years ago when one man had no children, yet was appointed by the church to the task. The Lord has a reason for having children, “for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church.”

Thousands of men all over the country have taken on the “noble task” of this work, and it is a work. Many hours, hours that the average person does not see, are spent in the task. There are decisions to be made that they alone must make. Untold hours spent in prayer for the members and for their strength in God’s word to carry out the task. Then there are untold hours spent with those who are in trouble or hurting, trying to find the right advice or help to give.



We honor such men, we consider their decisions as sacred, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb.13:17 ESV) Often we disagree with the decisions made, and if they are wrong scripturally, we should bring it to their attention; but it is a must that we follow them and “obey” them, for thus it is the word of God.



Good Fruit

Jon Warnes

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

My brother has worked over 35 years in a produce department. He knows fresh fruit when he sees it and he easily recognizes fraudulent freshness, too. Daily, he’ll pick through each piece determining if it’s genuine or not and if worthy to be displayed and marketed. Likewise, a healthy, vibrant, and delicious fruit bowl requires constant observation of its content by us. The physical fruit we eat will not stay fresh, we understand that, but our spiritual fruit can stay pertinent and effective as long as we maintain a tested and proven formula to keep ourselves close to God’s word, His family, and stay in communication with our Lord.

The spiritual fruit Paul mentions to the Galatian church is what we should observe in ourselves and other brethren. Since we’ve been freed from our sinful (fraudulent) life, there’s no need to desire to be phony again. Paul also encourages the church to not be lured back by those trying to disturb us. Sometimes those trouble makers (Galatians 1:7) may be people from the past who are enticing us to come back to our old ways, or they’re new acquaintances with a supposed “new” way to live. Neither one will keep your spiritual fruit fresh. Each of us have a great responsibility to be relevant and fresh for God, the church, and for those looking for “real produce” to replace their spoiled life.

Announcements

1. Brother Jordan will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, New class. - the book of Romans.
3. Paul and Judy have returned! We had a great time but are eager to get back to work!

~ On the Prayer list

- The Holzwart and Barry families** - for baby Luke and his health.
- Kerry Johnson** - for getting over the flu.
- Bobby Glover** - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.
- Michael White** - for his education and helping others as he serves his time.
- The church at Alisal** - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!