



Session 8 The Choice Between Two Ways

I. THE CHOICE BETWEEN TWO WAYS

- A. Choices Determine Destiny. In Psalm 1 God clearly presents two fundamental choices. The choice of going God's way or the choice of going the way of the ungodly. These two choices have two entirely different destinations – one leads to eternal life or the other leads to eternal death.
- B. Adam and Eve were presented with basically the same two choices that we see in Psalm 1 - a choice represented by two trees that had two very different spiritual realities.
- C. The name of one tree was called the tree of life. Just as its name stated, it not only represented life – the life of God, but it had the ability to impart life of God, the eternal life of God Himself found in Jesus Christ.
- D. The name of the other tree was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Just as its name stated, it represented the way of both good and evil. When Adam and Eve chose apart from God what they believed to be good for themselves, disobeying God's commandment, mankind came into experiential knowledge of the law of God.
- E. The law judged them for their sin and sin's punishment was death. At that moment the life of God departed from them. Their beautiful union with God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit was severed.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- F. Death flooded their lives, causing mankind and all of creation to fall under the affect of their choice to disobey God's love commandment. All the evil you see in this world stemmed from the first Adam's choice to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- G. Evil is perpetuated throughout all the earth as each person continues to make the same choice as the first Adam - to reject God's instructions, His commandments of love, His tree of life and to choose for themselves what they believed to be good or evil.
- H. But you have a choice of whether or not you will perpetuate evil and death through your life by accepting or by rejecting Jesus Christ and God's instructions, His commandments of love.

II. GOD'S CHOICE – JESUS CHRIST - THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

- A. In Psalm 1:1 God exhorts you not to follow in the footsteps of the first Adam, but to follow in the footsteps of the "Blessed Man," Jesus Christ.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners nor sits in the seat of the scornful,

- B. Going God's way begins by receiving Jesus Christ into your heart as "*the way, the truth, and the life.*" (John 14:6) But, it is imperative that every day in every decision that you continue to choose Jesus Christ and His way. The way you will know God's way and have the courage and strength to follow it is by prayerfully meditating on God's Word day and night.
- C. The only solution for mankind's greatest problem, sin and its punishment of death, is Jesus Christ. In the garden as Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, sin and death entered into the world. Jesus Christ, the last Adam, paid mankind's sin-debt in a garden on a tree, the tree of Calvary. (1 Peter 2:24)

John 19:41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

III. THE THREE TREES ON CALVARY'S HILL

- A. In a garden on Calvary's hill stood three tree-crosses. In the midst of these three tree crosses stood the tree of life – Jesus Christ. On either side of Jesus hung two thieves being punished for their crime. These two men represent the fundamental choice of mankind as seen in Psalm 1.
- B. Both of these criminals hanging on the cross heard the crowd – the people, the rulers, and the soldiers mocking Jesus, saying:
Luke 23:37 If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.
- C. One of the criminals hanging on a tree-cross joined the mockery of the crowd, believing the lie about Who Jesus Christ was. His choice led him to everlasting death – just like Adam and Eve's choice when they rejected the tree of life. (Ps. 1:5-6)
Luke 23:39 One of the criminals said, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."
Psalms 1:6 The way of the ungodly shall perish.
- D. The other criminal hanging on a tree realized his sin, but came into agreement with the truth about Who Jesus Christ was. His choice led him to everlasting life.
Luke 23: 40-41 The other criminal rebuked this other man saying, "***Do you not even fear God ... Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."***
- E. Jesus responded to this man's request by saying:
Luke 23:43 "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- F. This man's tree of death was turned into a tree of everlasting life, because of his choice regarding Jesus Christ, the One who takes away the sin of the world.
John 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- G. What is your choice regarding Jesus Christ? Will you choose life or death, good or evil, the blessing or the curse?

Deut. 30:19 I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.

- H. God's will for your life is that you believe in Jesus' name and be adopted back into His family. (John 1:12-13)

Ephesians 1:5-6 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

IV. IN CHRIST

- A. God gives us a choice in Psalm 1 of two very different places where we can choose to live our life – in Jesus or in satan.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not IN the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands IN the path of sinners, nor sits IN the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is IN the law of the Lord, and IN His law he meditates day and night.”

- B. Once you take your place in Jesus Christ, meditating on His Word day and night, you will be able to live in your true identity in Jesus Christ, in your character description of Psalm 1.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

- C. Did you know that Jesus Christ began His “Sermon on the Mount” in a similar fashion as Psalm 1 with a character description of the “blessed man,” those who take their position in Jesus Christ? This character description is known as the beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-10) Each beatitude begins with “Blessed are...”

V. WALKING IN THE COUNSEL OF CHRIST, NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY

- A. Not walking in the counsel of the ungodly, is echoed by the apostle Paul in Romans 8:5 when he says that those who are in Christ live according to the Spirit and do not “set their minds on the things of the flesh” – the things of death.

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- B. You need to have your mind constantly renewed to God's Word, through your meditation on it day and night, allowing it to impart the life of Christ where death once reigned. As you do this, you will be able to prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God in your life.

Romans 12:1-2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- C. Do you know that you have the mind of Christ?

1 Corinthians 2:16 But we have the mind of Christ.

- D. God exhorts you to think the same way Christ thought.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...

- E. What does it look like to not walk in the counsel of the ungodly? (Col. 3:5-9)

Ephesians 4:22-24 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- F. Walking not in the counsel of the ungodly means you walk worthy of the calling of who you are in Jesus Christ.

Eph. 4:1 ...walk worthy of the calling with which you were called....

VI. STANDS IN CHRIST, NOT IN THE PATH OF SINNERS

- A. As you walk according to God's Word, you will find yourself standing more and more in His path of righteousness and not in the path of sinners, where you once stood. There are only two paths in life – the path of Jesus Christ, the path of righteousness and the path of satan, the path of sinners. You get to choose where you stand.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners...

- B. Too often we don't understand the gravity of our decisions. No one wants to stand with satan. However, when you are lured to "stand in the path of sinners" you are actually standing with satan, the one who "does not stand in the truth." (John 8:44)

- C. When Jesus stood in His identity, saying "I am He" even though it meant He would be crucified for doing so (John 18:4-5), Peter denied his identity, saying "I am not..." and stood with them. (John 18:17-18)

Where did Peter stand? In the path of sinners Where did Jesus stand? In the path of righteousness

- D. Ask God for strength to stand with Him and His Word, in His path of righteousness, so you don't find yourself standing against Him.

Ps. 2:2 "The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ."

- E. Putting on the whole armor of God, enables you to stand in Christ's strength and power, so that you can do what He did in the times of His temptation - standing against the wiles (the lying schemes) of the devil and having done all to stand.

Eph. 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil....13 having done all, to stand.

- F. Standing in the path of righteousness in Christ Jesus, requires that you pray all kinds of prayers and petitions and open our mouth boldly to speak like we ought to speak. Eph. 6:18-20

VII. SITS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES, NOT IN THE SEAT OF THE SCOFFERS

- A. Why would you want to sit in the seat of the scornful, when you have been given a first class seat in heaven “far above all principality and power and might and dominion”? This seat was purchased for you by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1: 20 ... seated Him (Jesus) at His (God’s) right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God... made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- B. Jesus was seated triumphantly as King and Priest in the heavenly places because His work was finished (John 19:30). You are seated in the finished work of the cross. This means you can declare and decree the things that are not, according to the Word of God, as though they are.

Romans 4:17 God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

- C. Sitting in the seat of scoffers is one of the lowest places on earth a person can ever be seated. It is not only using your mouth to completely contradict and mock Jesus Christ and His way, but it is sitting down on satan’s throne ruling and reigning with him through accusations and condemnation of others. Sitting in this seat leads to eternal death.

Matthew 27:36-37 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

VIII. DELIGHT

Delighting in God, His Word, is not only placing Him above all else in your life, but finding your greatest joy and pleasure in Him. This is vital for you to not live a life of compromise.

Job 22:25, 26 Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver; for then you will have your delight in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God.

IX. FRUIT BEARING

- A. Bearing everlasting fruit comes from your abiding relationship with Jesus Christ, which is a two-fold reality: you abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in you. Abiding in Christ is a description of your unity with Him that is developed through a lifestyle like Psalm 1 describes.

John 15:5 Jesus said, “**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

- B. If you respond to His invitation to meditate in His Word day and night, becoming like a tree planted by the river of His love, you will develop a deep relationship with the Lord and a rich prayer life.

John 15:7 **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.**

John 15: 16 **You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**

- C. Jesus desires that you bear more and much fruit that should remain. God’s fruit is seen by your words and deeds that are born from your relationship with His heart, as exemplified in Jesus life, just like Psalm 1:2-3 describes.

John 15:2**bear more fruit... 8 bears much fruit...16 that your fruit should remain...**

- D. By God’s grace, you bear fruit inwardly in your character through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 6:22, Rom. 7:4-5, Eph. 5:9, Heb. 12:11, Heb. 13:15)

Galatians 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

- E. By God’s grace, you bear fruit outwardly in your ministry and service to others. (Rom. 1:13, Phil. 1:22)

John 4:36 **And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.**

X. PSALM 1 DECLARATION PERSONALIZED

See next page for this.

XI. PSALM 1 SONG

Visit Songs of Scripture on CHR website to listen or download this Psalm 1 song by Wes Gorsope.

Thanks - Thanks for joining us in this 8 part series of Psalm 1, Choices Determine Destiny. If you have missed any of these sessions, desire to review a session, or share with a friend, I encourage you to go to watch or download them on www.camarillohealingrooms.com/resources

Declaration of Psalm 1

1. My life is in Jesus Christ, in the Blessed Man.

Therefore, I choose to walk in God's wisdom and counsel for every decision, rather than in the counsel of the ungodly, those who ignore God's Word and ways.

I choose to stand in the full armor of God in the path of His righteousness, rather than the path of sinners, those who do not know "the way, the Truth, and the life".

I choose to take my seat in Christ in the heavenly places, rather than in the seat of those who doubt and mock My Lord and Savior.

2. Because I have discovered that my greatest delight is in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, I meditate on His Word day and night, talking with Him about all He has said and done.

3. I am like the tree of life, created in His image and likeness,
Planted by His rivers of living water, drinking in His never-ending supply of love,
Bearing the everlasting fruit of His character and His works,
My leaves turn to face the Son, soaking in His goodness and grace,
Hence, I am blessed and prosperous in whatever I do.

4. Unfortunately, those who have not chosen this life that Jesus offers are like a dried up tumbleweed, driven and tossed by the winds.

5. In the day of judgement they will be burned in the lake of fire, and here on this earth they won't find pleasure among those who believe the Truth.

6. The way of the righteous leads to everlasting life with God, the way of the unrighteous leads to everlasting death.