How to make right DECISIONS

Introduction:

Everyday, we make decisions (choices)…

When we were young (still under the authority of our parents) many of our decisions were made for us. We didn't have much choice other than to obey or disobey them.

However, now (as adults) there are many choices we must make.
For example:

How we will spend our time or money;
Where we will go to college
Our career choice (occupation; vocation)
Our marriage partner
Our location (where we will live)
Whether or not we will have our personal devotions today.
Etc.

God created man with an intellect (to think); emotion (to feel); and a will (to make choices).

- Every decision is <u>important</u>.
- You are <u>responsible</u> for the decisions you make in life.
- Your decisions both <u>reveal</u> your character and <u>form</u> it.
- Your <u>present</u> circumstances are (in large part) a result of your <u>past</u> choices.
- The decisions you must make today may be a result of decisions you made in your past (Our choices can result in a vicious or victorious cycle)
- God is concerned about the details of your life.
  (He cares about the choices you make - Mt 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.)

Lot: an example of a man who made bad choices (Genesis 13:9-13)

a. **Lot chose based on what he <u>saw</u> with his <u>eyes</u>** (v.10a)
(He didn't think to pray first)

b. **Lot chose based on the prospect of <u>material advantage</u> (Monetary gain)**(v.10b)
(Decisions that are made primarily on the promise of monetary gain will probably always be bad decisions; Before making the move ask: "is there a good church in town?" "will my ministry be enhanced by the move")

c. **Lot chose out of <u>selfish motives</u>, seeking the best <u>for himself</u>.**(v.11)
1Co 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth.*
Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

d. **Lot's choice made him vulnerable to making <u>other bad choices</u>.** (v.12)
Lot's bad choice was to pitch toward Sodom, then ended up in Sodom. Where is your life pitched toward? It's not so much where your are but where you are headed. Lot had a **T**ent **V**iew (TV) of Sodom.

e. **Lot's choice negatively affected not only himself, but his entire family** (Gen.19:14-17;26;35-38)

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making <u>hasty</u> decisions (Quick decisions)

2) Beware of making <u>carnal</u> decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)

3) Beware of making <u>self-serving</u> decisions (out of selfish motives)

4) Beware of making <u>unsure</u> decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)

5) Beware of making <u>emotional</u> decisions (without reason)

6) Beware of making <u>faith-less</u> decisions (throwing out "the fleece")

Some fundamental decisions you must make:

You must make a genuine, thought out, conscious decision to…

1. Trust Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation

Acts 16:31 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house *(implied, if they believe also)*.

2. Surrender your life completely to God's will

Romans 12:1 - 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.

3. Obey the commands and principles that are specifically addressed by the Bible (for the N.T. believer).

Such as…

a. Keeping yourself morally pure (in thought, word & action)

Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself

Ps 17:3 - I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.

Job 31:1 - I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

b. Communing with God daily

(Bible Reading, Meditation, & Memorization & Prayer)

Joshua 1:8 - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Lu 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

c. Fellowshipping with God's people regularly

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

d. Husbands loving and leading their wives and families

Col 3:19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

e. Wives submitting to and helping their husbands

Eph.5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife…

f. Children obeying their parents

Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

g. Being Loving, truthful, sanctified, humble, a good employee etc.

There are 2 types of decisions we must make:

1) Moral Decisions - Choices related to clearly defined Biblical commands or principles.

2) A-moral Decisions - Areas of Christian Liberty where the Bible gives no specific command (Areas where we are free to make thought out, responsible & wise choices)

How do I make wise decisions?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:

1. **Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision?**
   Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. **Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision?**
   Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
   Pr 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
   Pr 19:20 - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

3. **Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision?**
   Psalm 119:105 - Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

4. **Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>?**
   Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. **Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God?**
   Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
   Make your decisions based upon what is <u>right</u>, not what is popular, or feels good.

6. **What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice?**
   Pr 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

   Don't made decisions based merely upon <u>immediate</u> results.
   "Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate" (Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)

7. **Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision?**
   Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Concluding Remarks about God's will in your decisions:

- **God is concerned about the <u>significant details</u> of your life**
  Luke 12:6-7
  Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (cp. Matthew 10:29-f)

- **God has a specific <u>plan & purpose</u> for you to fulfil**
  Example: Jeremiah - ***Jeremiah 1:5***
  Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Compare Isaiah 49:1,5)

  Example: <u>Paul</u> - Ga 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace…

- **God's will is not a "<u>bitter medicine</u>"**
  Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

- **God's will is <u>knowable</u> and <u>doable</u>**
  Eph 1:18-19 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

- **God never leads a person contrary to <u>His Word</u>**
  Psalm 119:35 - Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

- **God only moves those who are <u>in motion</u> for Him; He does not steer parked cars**
  Acts 13:2 - As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- **God gives you the <u>desire and ability</u> to do whatever He wants you to do**
  Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

"Knowing God's will is life's greatest knowledge;
Doing God's will is life's greatest privilege"
- Dr. Bob Jones Sr.