

Understanding Your Most Important Decision

Introduction. I love having a deeper spiritual understanding of any Bible subject, and I believe you do too. It is hard to find a more significant one than the struggle between good and evil. A few times in the Bible the veil is drawn back and we get a glimpse of this struggle. It happens in Daniel 10:13-14, 20-21 on a national scale, and it happens on an individual scale in Job (1:6-12).

God and Satan have battled over mankind since the beginning. But we ultimately know from the Bible that God will win (Revelation 20:10). So why is the decision to live godly not easier? Why does Satan win our affection? Why is it so hard to be taught to “deny ungodliness and worldly lusts” and then “live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12)? Maybe understanding the decision will help us choose more wisely. Our lesson will examine this struggle from three different vantage points.

I. Looking At The Decision Poetically

- A. Satan’s approach (Proverbs 7:1-27).
 - 1. Vv. 1-5: keep my words.
 - 2. Vv. 6-23: the persuasive adulteress.
 - 3. Vv. 24-27: listen to wisdom.
- B. God’s approach (Proverbs 8:1-36).
 - 1. Vv. 1-11: the call of wisdom.
 - 2. Vv. 12-21: the deeds of wisdom.
 - 3. Vv. 22-31: the beginning of wisdom.
 - 4. Vv. 32-36: the blessedness of wisdom.

II. Looking At The Decision Logically

- A. Satan’s approach.
 - 1. Ignorance (Hosea 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:3).
 - 2. Immaturity (Hebrews 5:12; 2 Peter 3:16).
 - 3. Indifference (Matthew 12:30).
 - 4. Arrogance (Proverbs 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:12).
 - 5. Carelessness (1 Peter 5:8).
 - 6. Neglect (Hebrews 2:1-3).
 - 7. Excuses (Luke 14:16-20).
- B. God’s approach.
 - 1. Knowledge (Philippians 3:8).
 - 2. Maturity (Philippians 3:12-16).
 - 3. Consistency (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - 4. Humility (James 4:10).
 - 5. Diligence (2 Timothy 2:10).

6. Growth (2 Peter 1:5-12).
7. Reasons (Ezekiel 33:11; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4).

III. Looking At The Decision Through Example

- A. Cain (Genesis 4:1-8).
 1. It was time for worship (v. 3).
 2. Emotions took over (v. 5).
 3. God's warning (vv. 6-7).
 4. Cain did not heed the warning (v. 8).
- B. Peter (Luke 22:14-62).
 1. It was time for worship (vv. 14-23).
 2. Emotions took over (vv. 24-30).
 3. Jesus's warning (vv. 31-32).
 4. Peter did not heed the warning (vv. 54-62).

Conclusion. God wants us to do right (James 4:4-5), but He is not going to force us to be righteous. There is only one way to Heaven, but an infinite number of ways to lose our souls (Matthew 7:13-14). Search out the truth and draw close to God (James 4:7-8). This will force Satan, and his devices, far from you.