

A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9 NKJV



Berean Bible Church

Service of
Worship & Communion

Sunday, 6 August, 2017

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Wifi: BBC-GUEST Password: john3:16n17 (no capitals)

Sunday School 9:30am

Morning Worship - 10:40am | Evening Service - 6:00pm

Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30pm

Hothersal Turning, St. Michael | Rev. Ronald Trotman - Pastor

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Decisions come in all shapes and sizes.

Steps for making good decisions

Whatever type of decision we face, there are biblical principles that can help us make better decisions.

For example, when a Christian recognizes a bad habit or faces a moral choice, he or she can apply God's command to always choose His way:

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

The steps below can help with these decisions, and also with so many other decisions that don't have an easy, right-or-wrong answer.

So, where does the Christian decision-making process start?

1. Direction from God. As Christians, our overall direction in life is determined by our commitment to God, and we must remember to ask Him to direct our lives.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

How does God direct us? Through the wisdom He gives us in the Bible and through wise biblical counsel from His servants.

All of our decisions are to be in harmony with God's laws and His plan.

We should pray for God's guidance and study the Bible to see what it says about the decision we are facing. Many helpful principles are presented in the book of Proverbs, for example; it's a book designed to teach us prudence and understanding and the wisdom to make good decisions (Proverbs 1:1-4). It all starts with understanding how much greater God is than we are. This reverence for God is known as the fear of the LORD (verse 7).

As we study the Bible, we should act on what we learn. We should discard any choices that we discover would compromise with God's laws.

Sometimes it is a simple matter to know what decision to make—simply because only one choice would allow us to obey God. But most of our decisions are not that clear-cut. Sometimes there are several good choices, and sometimes none of the choices are morally wrong. The following steps can help us make wise decisions in these cases.

2. Define the problem or opportunity. When our problem seems fuzzy, it can be very difficult to come up with a solid solution. Sometimes it can be helpful to look at the problem from many angles in order to clearly define it.

What caused the problem to erupt at this time and in this way? Who is affected by it? If other people are involved in causing the problem, why? What do they get out of it?

If your decision is an opportunity, what exactly do you get by choosing it? What do you lose if you don't choose it?

3. Dig out the relevant information. We have already discussed looking for the related passages in the Bible. We also need to search out the pertinent facts about the specific problem or opportunity.

Many search tools are available in our information age, and it can be helpful to explore everything from the library to the Internet. Look for reputable sources with relevant expertise. Be sure to put all the information you gather through the filters of fact checking and biblical truth.

The Bible advises, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14). Different people will likely have different information and different perspectives that can give you a broader understanding of the situation.

4. Determine the alternatives. With all the facts in hand, you can begin brainstorming various options that could solve the problem or best deal with the opportunity.

Combining and concentrating on all the information gained from the previous steps should give us several possible choices. Depending on the situation, it can be valuable to explore some outside-the-box solutions. This is especially true when none of the obvious options seem that good.

Some of us might be tempted to cut short this stage in the interest of reaching closure as soon as possible. This can be a problem if we don’t have enough options to pick a good one.

Others might be tempted to continue in this stage for too long, out of fear that the perfect solution will be missed. This, too, can be a problem if we put off a decision too long and perhaps miss the deadline. At some point, we have to decide we have enough options and move on to step 5.

5. Deliberate. Weigh the options. Make lists of pros and cons for each one. Weed out the worst ideas and carefully examine the best ones.

This is a principle that Jesus Christ advised His followers to apply:

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it” (Luke 14:28). Whether deciding to commit our lives to God in baptism or to remodel our kitchen, we need to count the cost and weigh the options.

Wise King Solomon also pointed out the importance of looking ahead to foresee the possible results of our decisions: “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3).

This process of deliberating, counting costs and foreseeing future dangers and opportunities should prepare us for the next step.

6. Decide. With all the research and preparation, this part should be easier. Another prayer for guidance and additional consultation with advisers can give us the confidence to make a wise choice.

7. Do. Take action. Don’t dillydally, but implement your decision decisively.

If we have followed these steps carefully and put the decision into practice diligently, we will likely be happy with the results.

God gives this encouragement to those who seek His will and follow His way: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5-6). When we make a decision to follow God’s way and His law, we don’t have to look back.

But with a physical decision that isn’t a matter of right and wrong, it is not bad to reassess the choice when necessary and adjust course. Doing so can be a good decision too.

Order of Service

Ministry of Music – Choir

Invocation

Hymn 'My God How Wonderful...' (Screen)

Hymn 72 'Fairest Lord Jesus'

Hymn 29 'This is my Father's world'

1st Reading: Psalm 103 : 1 - 12 (Unison)

Hymn 32 'I sing the mighty power of God'

Prayer

Notices & Offering

Ministry of Music – Choir

Hymn 38 'Ye servants of God'

Sermon – Rev. Ronald Trotman

Hymn 817 'I need Jesus'

Distribution of Elements

Special Offering

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 4:13-18

Ministry of Music - Berean Trio

Benediction – Choir



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- For volunteers and success of our Vacation Bible School
- Personnel and drivers to assist with CEF Ministry during summer.
- The Church to transform lives.
- ISIVCF and Gideons
- Our new converts in Christ.
- The healing of the sick and shut-in.
- Those grieving and mourning loss.
- Our Government, Police and Military.
- The Hothersal community
- The peace of Jerusalem.

Join US next Sunday at 6pm for an engaging Bible Study



Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 NIV

August Birthdays

1st – Michelle Knight

– Louise Moore

3rd – Deirdre Boyce

– Audrey Lloyd

11th – Bernadette Holder

13th – Chad James

13th – Michael Patrick

14th – Steve Brewster

18th – Jean Slocombe

19th – Jean Connell

– Patricia Gaskin

21st – Celeste Porte

23rd – Nicholas Williams

24th – Monica Crawford

25th – Raymond Wallace

27th – Tyrone Lowe

30th – Cynthia Lindsay

– Johan Rogers

Anniversaries

2nd – Owen & Jenny Thompson

– Lorna & George Ward

4th – Raymond & Joy Wallace

21st – Joyce & Robert Belgrave

27th – Richard & Brigette James

Dacre & Pearlita Franklin