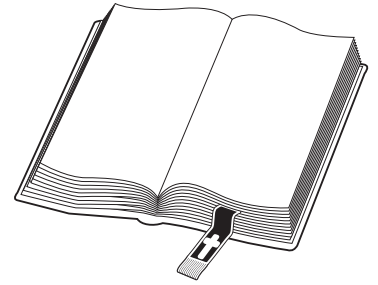


Making Wise Choices

*"I have chosen the way of truth;
Your judgments I have laid before me." Psalm 119:30*



Number 11 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Before I put my trust in Christ as my Savior, I made a lot of wrong choices. Proverbs 14:12 reads, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* Before Christ I made my choices based on what seemed right to me at that time according to my emotions, needs, and desires. I made choices based on the latest book I had read, movie I had watched, or television I had seen. I experienced a lot of bad consequences, and unfortunately I hurt a lot of people. Later I saw the truth of Proverbs 14:12 that the end of my ways and my choices brought death, not only to me, but also to others.

Then as a new believer in 1976, I was just like a newborn baby hungry for food. I wanted to know this God who loved a sinner like me so much that He sent His Son to die for me. I wanted to know Jesus who was willing to suffer and die so that I could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him, so daily I read my Bible and prayed. The more I read and obeyed the Bible, the more I saw all the deception in my thoughts and in my life. As I chose to apply God's truth, my life was *radically changed*, and I desired more and more truth. The more I filled my heart and soul with God's truth and applied it, the quicker the situations changed in my life.

Joshua 24:15 reads, *"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in*

whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I knew the pain and the folly of serving the gods of this world and my flesh. So as a young believer I made choices to serve the one and only true and living God all the days of my life. The Lord I serve is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:24-25 reads, *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin."* I had a thirsting in my soul for many years before I became a believer, and I tried to quench that thirst with relationships, material goods, and the pleasures of this world. Beloved, *nothing lasted*. I just felt more and more empty. I can understand why Moses was willing to give up everything he possessed to turn his back on all this worldly pleasure and to choose to fully follow the only true God, even when it meant suffering affliction.

By GOD'S AMAZING GRACE, making wise choices has resulted in my marriage being restored, being set free from bondages to sin, forgiving those who had hurt me, knowing freedom from debts, and having an international ministry. Beloved, I encourage you to fill your heart and soul with God's Word and make wise choices.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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