

2 You are what you decide

Some people say "you are what you eat". Others believe you are what you *have*. The Bible teaches that you are what you *choose*. What, where and how you are today is the result of years and years of choices and decisions. Some decisions are small and apparently insignificant. Others are life-changing. Right now you are going to be challenged to will make a decision that will forever change your life – and afterlife!

Because you **decide** where you will spend the hereafter by the choices you make while you're here.

God loves you and wants the best for you. He invites you to make the right decision when He says: "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you ... may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19b). It's as plain as black and white: you choose God, you get life. Now, if God is life and you reject Him, what do you end up with?...

Please open (unfold) and read inside.

1 The man who decided to stop

A car was speeding across the bridge when the driver noticed a man up ahead frantically waving his hands back and forth in the air: "Questions raced through his mind: 'Is he drunk? Is he crazy? Or worse, is he armed and up to something dangerous?'" There was no time to think. The man was not getting out of the way, so he would either have to stop or he would have to run over him. He decided to stop. As soon as he did, he noticed that the bridge had caved in and that several cars had already plunged into the river below. The driver was thankful for the man that risked his life to warn him of sure disaster up ahead... and awfully glad he decided to stop.

7 Decide while you still can

Wake up – before it's too late! As long as you are alive, there's still time and still hope. After you die, your destiny is sealed forever. Don't kid yourself: "deciding not to decide" is still a decision. There's no getting around it. There's no neutral ground, no middle term. There are only two options and you can choose only one of them: to accept God or to reject God. Choosing to accept God is simple: just **tell** Him and **mean** it! **Meaning** it involves repenting, receiving His forgiveness and giving Him your whole life. **Telling** Him involves a prayer which can be like this one:

God, thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to die for my sins and save me from hell. I repent of my sins and accept Your forgiveness. From now on I invite You to guide my life because I want to live for You. Please come into to my life right now. In Jesus' name, amen.

If you will do this, the Bible promises: "Yet to all who received [Jesus], to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). And "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Read the Bible. Pray. Join a Christian church that teaches Jesus as the only way to God.

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Scripture quotations from the NIV

J 3:16

YOU DECIDE

[a wake-up call]

3 How will you decide?

Let's get back to the story of the bridge. Jesus is like the man who was waving his hands and warning people of the danger up ahead. Nobody in the Bible warned about hell more than Jesus did. But He didn't come only to warn, He "came to seek and to **save** what was lost" (Luke 19:10); to save from sin, condemnation and hell. All who have sinned need to be saved. Technically, that's everybody; specifically, that's you. The Bible says: "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). But "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish* but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:16-18). (*) *Perish* here means "eternal death" or "to be condemned to hell."

God offers the solution; will you trust Him on this?



4 Subjects choose to reject king

(God decided to invite you; will you choose to accept?)

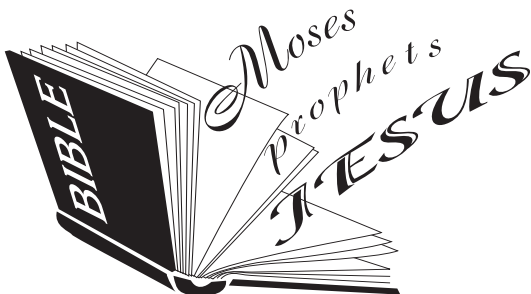


What would you do if you received an invitation to an official banquet from the president himself? Turning down an invitation like that would be crazy, right? Well Jesus told a story about a king "who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come." He invited them a second time, but again "they paid no attention" and "seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them." Needless to say "the king was enraged." So "he sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city." But the king still wanted people to come so he invited and brought others to his son's wedding. (See Matthew 22:2-14)

The king in the story is God, the Son is Jesus and the message is clear: God extends a special invitation to us to live with and for Him. If we choose to ignore or reject Him, we do not deserve Him and incur His wrath. What will **you** decide about God? Will you choose to accept His special invitation to you?

5 Rich man chose poorly

Jesus also told about "a rich man who lived in luxury" and "a beggar named Lazarus" who survived off the crumbs "from the rich man's table." Both died: the rich man went to hell and Lazarus to heaven. The rich man was obviously religious and no doubt was surprised to be where he was. He pleaded: "have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire." He was told that couldn't be done. The rich man then asked that Lazarus be sent back to warn his brothers about "this place of torment." He was told: "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead*" (Please read Luke 16:19-31).



(*) Coincidentally, Jesus brought a friend called Lazarus back to life, yet many still did not believe in Him. And He Himself rose from the dead, but many to this day refuse to put their trust in Him.

6 Enough is enough

The matter of your eternal security should be the main concern of your life (it certainly wasn't for the rich man). What good is it to "survive" here only to be condemned in the hereafter to eternal torment? This is how Jesus put it: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36).



It all comes down to the question Pilate, the Roman governor, asked 2000 years ago: "what shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" The crowd answered "Crucify him!" (Matthew 27:22). What will be **your** answer? What will **you** decide?

While God is a God of forgiveness and is extremely patient, there comes a time when even for God enough is enough. So take advantage of His offer of forgiveness now, before it's too late. "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:6,7).

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