

Choices (2)

Introduction.

- A. Last week, Titanic.
 - 1. Luxury over safety.
 - 2. Overcommitted to things of temporary value.
 - 3. Under committed to things of lasting value.
- B. The choices we make determine our lives.
 - a. Few choices are major choices.
 - b. Most choices seem inconsequential.
 - c. Yet small choices add up to make our lives.
- C. Moses (Dt. 30:11-20).
 - 1. At close of his life.
 - a. Most important things.
 - b. How will they survive without me?
 - 2. Urges Israel to choose life.

I. Choosing life is not difficult or mysterious (11-14).

- A. Don't have to go up to heaven.
- B. Don't have to go to distant lands.
- C. Very near.
 - 1. In your heart (Ro. 2:14-15).
 - 2. In your mouth.
 - a. Confession.
 - b. Common conversation.
- D. We need to become aware.

II. Choices set out for God's people (15-18).

- A. Life and prosperity – blessing.
 - 1. “How to:”
 - a. Love the LORD.
 - b. Walk in his ways.
 - c. Keep his commands.
 - 2. Results.
 - a. You will live.
 - b. You will increase.
 - c. You will be blessed.

- B. Death and destruction – cursing.
 - 1. Destroyed [as a nation].
 - 2. Not live long in the land.
- C. No middle ground.

III. The witnesses (19-20).

- A. Heaven and earth are witnesses.
 - 1. Human witnesses will die.
 - 2. Heaven and earth continue.
- B. Therefore, choose life.
 - 1. Love the LORD.
 - 2. Listen to his voice.
 - 3. Hold fast to him.

IV. Our choices.

- A. Prayer life (most concrete expression of our relationship with God).
 - 1. Requires time.
 - 2. Requires space.
 - 3. Requires silence.
- B. Knowledge of God.
 - 1. Scripture combined with prayer.
 - 2. There is no shortcut to sanctification.
- C. Christian character is shaped by our choices.
 - 1. Love – hate or indifference.
 - 2. Smile – frown.
 - 3. Build – destroy.
 - 4. Persevere – quit.
 - 5. Praise – gossip.
 - 6. Heal – wound.
 - 7. Give – grasp.
 - 8. Act – delay.
 - 9. Forgive – be bitter.
 - 10. Pray – despair.
- D. Questions to ask.
 - 1. Will this make me love the Lord more or less?
 - 2. Am I seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness?

V. The LORD is your life (20).