

## CHOICES

**Text: Genesis 2:19-20** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. <sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

**Romans 7:18-25** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

**Galatians 5:16-17** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

### **Introduction: *Our Brain* was designed by God as a “Decision Making Machine”**

#### *The Human Brain as designed by the Creator*

- *Theorists believe your brain might contain 100 billion quantum bits, which would make your own brain more powerful than all the digital computers in the world combined.* (ref. [odonnellco.co](http://odonnellco.co))
- *The human brain has been described as the most complex known structure in the universe.* There are another 85 billion cells that serve various functions in the brain. Even more incredible is that each one of these neurons on average connects to thousands of other neurons, resulting in an estimated 100 trillion connections (Caruso, 2023; Zimmer, 2011). These connections allow signals to travel between neurons and can function as logic gates, giving it a computing power of one exaflop—that is one quintillion mathematical operations per second (Madhavan, 2023)—that is a billion times a billion or 1 followed by 18 zeros. And it does all of this in an incredibly efficient way, using only 20 watts of power. In comparison, one of the most advanced supercomputers in the world requires a million times more power (20 megawatts) to reach anything near a similar computing capacity (Madhavan, 2023). The total length of this complex fiber network is estimated to be around 310,000 miles long. (ref.: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/consciousness-and-beyond/202309/the-staggering-complexity-of-the-human-brain>)
- *A piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains 100,000 neurons and 1 billion synapses.* (ref.: <https://www.nm.org/healthbeat/healthy-tips/11-fun-facts-about-your-brain>)

### **Choices: GOD DESIGNED MAN TO LIVE AN EARTHLY LIFE FILLED WITH CHOICES!**

**WHAT IS CHOICE?** WikiQuotes Defines Choice as “the mental process of judging the merits of multiple options and selecting one of them. While a choice can be made between imagined options (“what would I do if ...?”), often a choice is made between real options, and followed by the corresponding action.

As a minister, I would add the following scriptural observation to this definition: **MINOR CHOICES HAVE MINOR CONSEQUENCES and MAJOR CHOICES HAVE MAJOR CONSEQUENCES!**

### **I. God Designed Man as a FREE MORAL AGENT with the ability and responsibility to Choose**

**Genesis 2:19-20** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every

living creature, that was the name thereof. <sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field...

- *Adam was given assignment and responsibility to name all the animals*
- *Adam was given the authority to name them any name he chose and that was their name*
- *Adam chose a name for his Help Meet **Genesis 3:20** And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*
- *Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden with the Tree of Good and Evil!*

## **II. Our Life on Earth is full of Choices**

(ref. <https://www.pbsnc.org/blogs/science/how-many-decisions-do-we-make-in-one-day/>) It's estimated that the average adult makes about 35,000 remotely conscious decisions each day. Each decision, of course, carries certain consequences with it that are both good and bad. Considering an average of 7 hours of sleep per night, it means 2,000 decisions per hour or one decision every two seconds. The smallest action thought or movement requires the brain to make a functional decision

As American consumers in a free market economy, we've come to expect a lot of choices when it comes to products and services. For example, which TV service do I use and then once it's hooked up, which channel will I watch? Do I want a regular coffee or a coffee drink? What should I wear to work? Which route do I take to get to work? Do I "like" a friend's post on Facebook? You get the idea... Researchers at Cornell University estimate we make 226.7 decisions each day on food alone. (**example note:** there are over 660,000 restaurants in America—if each restaurant has 30 items on its menu—there would be over 20 million selections to choose from -- ref. Statista Research).

## **III. Our Choices are seen by God as fitting into ONLY two real CATEGORIES**

a. **Earthly**—*The choices pertaining to our earthly life. These choices are mostly inconsequential and temporary & generally left up to us to choose.*

*Examples:*

- *Our Text: **Genesis 2:19-20** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. <sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field;*
- *The career we choose (unless God has a special calling on our life)*
- *Where we live*
- *The size of our home*
- *What type and color car we drive*
- *What type of food we eat*
- *How much money we spend and how we spend it*
- *How much money we save*
- *How we take care of ourselves-exercise or not exercise*
- *ETC., and 1,000's of other choices we make every day*

God will gladly help us achieve any of our earthly goals but only if we ask for his help!

b. **Spiritual** – *The choices pertaining to our eternal life*—THESE ARE THE ESSENTIAL AND FAR MORE IMPORTANT CHOICES WE ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE!

1. *Who do we choose to lead us Spiritually? GOD or SATAN? WHICH CAMP DO WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN? "You must be Born Again" or you are not in God's Camp*
2. *Our Level of Spiritual Commitment do we Choose?*
  - *As a Christian – Will we be a fully committed/mature disciple or a lukewarm disciple who is back in the latter group of those who follow the teachings of Christ half-heartily?*

- *As a non-Christian – Will we be a mass murderer or suicide bomber or will we be a relatively moral and honest person who is simply waiting for the right time to get saved?*

3. ***How do we choose to handle temptation? – when it comes – not, if it comes!***

"The Biblical meaning of temptation is '**a trial in which man has a free choice of being faithful or unfaithful to God**'.

- **James 1:13-16** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: <sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not err, my beloved brethren.
- **Satan tempted Jesus** to deviate from the plan of his father by misusing his authority and privileges. **Jesus used the Holy Scripture to resist all such temptation.**  
**WE MUST TOO!**

4. ***How do we choose to handle our old nature that continues to trouble us?***

**Our Text--Romans 7:18-25** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

**Galatians 5:16-17** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

**II Corinthians 10:4-5** For the weapons of our warfare *are* not <sup>[a]</sup> carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

5. ***The Grace of God is given to bridge the gap between our Christian BAD DECISIONS/Failures and God's Requirements for Perfection***

**Romans 3:23-24** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**Proverbs 28:13** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**I John 1:7-10** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**IV. Closing: Choice comes with Consequences---We are all Responsible for OUR CHOICES**

Example: *As this sermon is being prepared there is war between Gaza and Israel. In 2007 Gaza was given the opportunity to have open elections. Gaza freely chose and elected the terrorist group, Hamas to run their country. Hamas stopped all future elections and immediately began planning and engaging in attacks*

*against Israel. Now, those who voted in Hamas will have to share in the war to eliminate the terrorist attackers!*

Famous Quotes about Choices

- Graham Brown: Life is about choices. Some we regret, some we are proud of, some will haunt us forever.
- Jean Nidetch: It is choice- not chance- that determines your destiny
- Neil Peart: If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice
- Zig Ziglar: Every choice you make has an end result.
- Jim Eliot: God always gives his best to those who leave the choice with him?

***Heaven or Hell—the only two choices of eternity!***

***We choose which destination each day by the daily choices we make!***

***Our Christian's Reward: We choose our reward by the way we live our life while on earth!***

**NO ONE ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE BUT US!**

**II Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.