

Premier
ChristianRadio
SUNDAY
Sermon
with Rick Warren
BIBLE STUDY NOTES

How to make tough choices

Every day we are confronted by choices: what to wear, what to eat, what to watch on TV, what to buy.

Some of these choices are easy. Some are more complicated. Sometimes, especially in times of hardship, like now, we have more difficult decisions to make.

Doctors & Politicians all around the world are now making tough choices every hour of the day.

How do you choose what to do when the choices that confront you are: equally good, equally bad or equally painful?

How do you decide? Flip a coin, abdicate responsibility, or use your free will?

Mankind is unique in that it can make moral choices.

What tough choices are you going to have to make this week?

What difference will trusting God make?

Things to remember:

- a) James 1:5 - God gives us wisdom when we ask for it
- b) Proverbs 3:18 - Wisdom is the key to a blessed life
- c) Proverbs 4:7 - Wisdom is the most important thing you can get.

Why should we remember these things?

As flawed human beings we have a predisposition to make bad choices.

Are there choices you have made that with the benefit of hindsight the Lord may have helped you make differently?

Proverbs 24:14 - Wisdom provides a secure future.

How do you get wisdom?

1. Make him the priority - Psalm 111:10

Reverence for God gives wisdom, when you trust Him, you get wisdom
How will you make Him a priority?

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2. Be humble or you stumble - dependency on God is tough, we like to do things on our own. How do we overcome this urge?

3. How do we put into practice Gods word in our lives?

a) The Bible is full of wisdom but it must be applied.

John 13:17 - 'Blessed are you if you do them'.

The proof of believing is doing - when was the last time we really proved Gods word in our own lives by actually doing what it said?

2 Samuel 22:31 – Gods way is always perfect and Gods word is always true.

b) God promises a blessing when it is applied.

James 1:25 - If you look intently into Gods perfect word it gives you freedom and you continue to do it, not forgetting what you've learned you will be blessed in what you do.

c) God advises us to get Godly people into our lives.

Everyone around us affects you:

- They are helping you or hurting you
- They are stress relievers or stress generators
- They are encouraging or discouraging

Proverbs 13:5 - Who we hang around with determines who we become.

How do we spend time with Godly people when we can't get out of the house?

New technologies help us to spend time with godly people - we can use zoom, telephone, write letters!

We can listen to Christian radio or podcasts.

Which folk will you spend more time with? What activities will you do more of in order to grow in wisdom?

4. When we trust God He frees us from second-guessing

Often we can make a choice, then we are filled with doubt, did we make the right one? Self-inflicted torture is the art of second-guessing yourself. How do we overcome this?

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Proverbs 17:24 - Where will you focus your attention?

James 1:6-8 - How do we guard ourselves from competing desires?

We are in a season of ever changing winds - how do you stop being blown around?

Not sure what to do? If we are, this causes: Indecisiveness.

In turn this causes:

- Unstable emotions
- Unstable relationships
- Unstable spiritual life

Sound like anyone you know?

5. When we trust God he moves into action on our behalf.

Trusting Him releases His power in our life.

Matthew 9:29

Big faith, big blessing, little faith little blessing.

6. When we trust God he uses even our mistakes.

He brings good out of even our wrong decisions.

Romans 8:28 - He causes everything to work for good.

Choosing in faith and in a good conscience means that those who love God have a safety net.