

GOD'S E.R.

FREED FROM ALL THINGS

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things

Class 1 – Protecting Your Freedoms - Lesson Four

“CHOICES”

Do you know that everything you do is a choice? The only thing that you do without choosing is breathe! So then, everything else is a choice – when and what you eat, what you wear, where you live, what you do to make a living. What you think, what you believe, what you listen to, what you feel..... **right, what you feel.** Because **after** choices comes the emotional response.

Do you ever notice, especially when you do something you know is not right, almost immediately you have bad feelings about it? You knew it wasn't right to do and yet you did it anyway, now you are beginning to bear the consequences.

Psalm 107:12 - Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

Our God-given conscience will cause us to have bad feelings after bad choices. Sin opens the doors to the enemy and allows his infiltration into our life.

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

What then will be the result for us if we make good choices in our thoughts and actions? Good feelings, peace and joy, will follow!

Duet 11:26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse : 27 the blessing, if you **listen** to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you

Listen does not just mean to “hear.” In the Greek, from Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, explains it as follows:

Listen – Gr. - to be regarded, be obeyed

So then to *listen* as stated in Deuteronomy above, means to “regard” and to “obey.”

Let's look at the admonitions in Deuteronomy 28

Lord has given us a choice – actually in every circumstance, but He tells us (if we are listening, and if we know what is good for ourselves) to choose the blessings, and not the curses.

Sometimes people think that things just “happen” to them. But the Word says,

Mathew 7:17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.
18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

We can determine which choices we are making by the results we are getting (by the fruit that is produced in our lives!)

I Pet 3:8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a **blessing*** instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a **blessing***. 10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. 12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

Blessing - *Gr.*: praise, laudation: of Christ or God; a (concrete) blessing, **benefit**

I John 2:3 this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;**

How does this apply to us? What is the primary thing we should do to keep His commandments? To know His Word and to put it into practice in our lives. It is our choice to read, learn, understand and apply it to our lives.

One of the most important ways we exhibit Christ’s character is to show love for others.

John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ...12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord ; and you are right, for so I am. 14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Ought to wash one another's feet -- not in the narrow sense of a literal washing, but by the very humblest real services one to another. – Bible Commentary

Our treatment of one another as Christians, and even of those that do not know the Lord, exhibits to others your nature, whether it be of Christ, or of the world.

Luke 6:33 "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

The Lord tells us that to do good for others is part of His character, but only when it is expressed freely and without bias. The point is to give God's love to anyone and everyone without bias, just as Jesus poured out the love of the Father to all mankind.

How is your serve? The more we love and serve others, the less time we spend worrying about ourselves - and we are blessed by the Lord as we magnify His character! (Hebrews 11:6)

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

1 Corinthians 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

The Scripture is referring to the time we spend in fellowship. The Scripture is warning us of our inward motive. Although we may literally take communion at the church altar, and on other occasions take the offerings of Satan in the form of drugs or alcohol abuse, the Scripture is saying to us to look at our heart motive. Why are you partaking of the "communion" of the devil? What is your motive? Why are you doing that and also partaking of the Lord's Supper? We must look at our motives. To fit in with a group of friends? Because we really don't trust the Lord? Is it because we worry so we take the devil's offerings to ease our worry instead of trusting the Lord?

Or, is it that that we believe there really are no consequences for our actions?

Let's read **Matthew 7:18-28** regarding this:

"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**'

If you realize you have tried to serve two masters and make the decision to change and serve Jesus only, then be assured this Scripture applies to you:

Ezekiel 18:21 "But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Next week we will study “*Remaining Free*” - Keeping the Door closed to the enemy and his temptations.