

The CHOICE



Life or Death?

Deut 30:19

*“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you **life and death**, the blessing and the curse. So **choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants*

Every action and decision in this temporal life has **eternal relevance** because it proves to our Creator our **intent to choose eternal** LIFE or DEATH.

The **issue** in every circumstance is always about EternalLIFE or DEATH.

The issue is always about gaining and maintaining an **eternal perspective**, and not being distracted by any immediate and temporary circumstance.

We are here now to make a LIFE or DEATH decision – **every day!**

We must manifest a pattern of **deeds** that prove an intent and desire to choose LIFE over DEATH.

Every day we have **new opportunities** to **prove** to ourselves and to our Creator that we want to choose eternal LIFE over eternal DEATH.

The above verse exposes that the REAL ISSUE in this life is about **The CHOICE** of LIFE over DEATH.

The ancient Israelites are a TYPE for this SAME ISSUE God that sets before each of us every “TODAY” of the rest our lives – The CHOICE of **Eternal** LIFE or DEATH.

Having an **eternal LIFE or DEATH perspective** will certainly change how we view and make choices every day.

For example, if we could effectively and consistently reduce every “temptation” (test) we experience in life to a LIFE or DEATH matter, it would make it easier to overcome (pass) these “temptations” (tests).

Every “**temptation**” (test) is then seen as merely as manifestation of a desire or impulse to choose DEATH over LIFE.

This innate desire and impulse to choose DEATH then is not something to be feared or ashamed of, but instead is seen as a force to be resisted in order to **prove** that we deliberately and intentionally wish to CHOOSE LIFE instead of DEATH.

The Creator wants each of us to **freely choose** His Way of LIFE. He does not wish to force upon anyone an eternity of a way of life that they do not agree with.

But what constitutes LIFE and DEATH?

The Creator initially instructed mankind about what constitutes LIFE and DEATH in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were given the very same instructions and CHOICE that God later gave to the ancient Israelites in Egypt as stated in the verse above. These instructions are the Ten Commandments – the ten basic principles of ETERNAL LIFE. Christ later reduced these ten principles to 1) **Love** God foremost, and 2) **Love** others as yourself.

So then, basically, this LIFE and DEATH **CHOICE** is about **LOVE** versus **HATE**.

So how can we (and God) be sure that we truly want to live a way of LOVE for eternity?

How can any length of **temporary** existence be used to determine an **eternal** existence?

Well, it appears from Scripture that God purposely created mankind with an innate proclivity and vulnerability that is opposed to the Way of Love so that it would **require** of us a **deliberate and intentional CHOICE** to agree with that Way of Love – that it could not be done by mistake or accident.

Notice how this innate nature is described in **Jer 17:9-10**:

Jer 17:9-10

9 “The **heart** is more **deceitful** than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? 10 “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the **mind**, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the **results of his deeds**.”

Mk 7:20-23

20 And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 “For **from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts**, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy *, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 “**All these evil things proceed from within** and defile the man.”

Truly, there is an innate tendency and pull that, without a deliberate CHOICE to oppose it with God’s help, can overpower, enslave and **brainwash** a person.

Rom 1:24-28

24 Therefore God gave them over in **the lusts of their hearts** to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason **God gave them over to degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper

The Apostle Paul was very aware of inner this “pull” toward DEATH.

Rom 7:14-25

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but **I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin**. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but **I am doing the very thing I hate**. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but **sin which dwells in me**. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but **I practice the very evil that I do not want**. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but **sin which dwells in me**. 21 I find then **the principle that evil is present in me**, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see **a different law in the members** of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members**. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from **the body of this death**? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So

*then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, **with my flesh the law of sin.***

But Paul realized that Christ has freed all of us from this pull of the “flesh” (Rom 8:1-2), and that all of us are also now “**freed from sin**” (Rom 6:17-18).

We now have a CHOICE to “not let sin reign in our mortal bodies” (Rom 6:12), based upon our CHOICE to repent and be baptized (Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38).

Now, our subsequent **CHOICES for LIFE will be rewarded** by Christ as He promises to those who are the “**overcomers**” in the 7 Church eras (Rev 2:7,17; 3:5,12,21). These overcomers will be part of the Firstfruits who will be the Bride and Wife of Christ **for an eternity**.

So we see **The CHOICE** we have is about an eternal LIFE with Christ **for an eternity**.

This is the very same CHOICE given to Adam and Eve, and then later to the ancient Israelites.

They all made The CHOICE of DEATH.

Today, we, in this last Laodicean Era of Christ’s church, by acknowledging God, and thereafter deliberately overcoming by gaining and maintaining an **eternal perspective in all temptations**, can make **The CHOICE of LIFE**.

Rev 3:20-21

*20 ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; **if anyone hears My voice and opens the door**, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 ‘**He who overcomes**, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, **as I also overcame** and sat down with My Father on His throne.*