

Be Careful of the Decisions you make every day.  
Sermon by Pastor Diana J. Perkins – June 10, 2018

Life is all about choices. We are created with a free will and it is up to us whether or not we will allow the Creator of the Universe to guide us into everlasting life. Tonight I want to share with you choices that people in the Bible made that greatly affected their lives.

If you read the first three chapters of Genesis, you will learn that the first children rebelled against their heavenly Father and their sin brought a curse to the whole universe. God created light to overcome darkness; the moon was created to reflect the light of the sun; he set boundaries around water, and in six days he had created a beautiful garden, animals, set the sun moon and stars in place and placed a man and his wife in the garden with the promise that they could live forever if they were obedient to his one command, “Don’t eat of one tree that is in the midst of the garden, the tree of Knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.” Genesis 2:16,17. There was a tree of life placed in the center of the garden that they could eat of and live forever, and from all the other trees in the garden they were free to eat from, so they had a choice. God created man to be able to think, create, and choose his own path. It was a gift of love and freedom that He gave so that his people would follow him and serve him out of love, not from being forced to comply with his commands.

Satan is God’s enemy though he was created to be the most beautiful angel in heaven. He was created perfect until the day that he decided to rebel against God and pride entered into his heart. He is dangerous to inhabitants of the earth because he has knowledge of human nature and uses his evil temptations to destroy God’s creation. He desires to be worshipped and to steal what rightfully belongs to God. Because mankind is made in the image of God, has been created to live forever in the presence of God, and is the apple of God’s eye, Satan roams through the earth seeking whom he can devour. God doesn’t withhold any good thing from his people. He sets boundaries and has given us the 10 Commandments to protect us from destroying ourselves. He wants us to have fruitful lives and to live within the framework of his purpose that we might enjoy the riches of his glory when our lives on earth end.

Hell was created for Satan and his angels because they rebelled against God and they purpose to destroy all that God has created.

Adam and Eve lived in paradise until Satan entered the garden and had a conversation with Eve. In Genesis chapter 3, the serpent asked Eve, “Has God said you shall not eat of every tree in the garden?” Eve replied, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said we shall not eat of it, neither shall we touch it, else we die.” Satan recognized that Eve added to God’s word as there was nothing said about touching the fruit, they were not to eat of it. He told Eve that she would not die if she ate of the tree for God knew that in the day that she ate of it, she would gain knowledge of good and evil. God didn’t want them to have as much knowledge as He does so they were forbidden to eat of this tree. Eve looked at the tree and determined that it looked like it was good for food,

it looked good and enticing to eat, and a tree that would make her wise, she took of the fruit, ate it and gave it to Adam and he did eat. Thus sin entered the world and the curse of death, hell and the grave took immediate effect. Fear, shame, guilt and judgement were placed into motion. When God confronted them, all of them suffered from the decision and the man and woman were driven from the garden and an angel was placed at the entrance so they could never return lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever in a fallen state. Satan was told that a redeemer would come and break the curse that he had caused to enter the universe. The Redeemer would have his heel bruised, but Satan's head would be crushed. God set in motion animal sacrifices in order to teach the people that a redeemer would die for their sins.

Eve bore children and she had two sons named Cain and Abel. Spiritual death was immediate, and the effect of the curse was set in motion. Fear, conflict, hard labor, shame and guilt were now things that humanity would contend with from generation to generation. Eve named her son, Cain, for she said, "I have gotten a man from the LORD." Then she bore another son and named him Abel. Cain rebelled against the LORD and brought an offering of vegetables from his garden for he was a farmer, rather than a sacrifice of a lamb. Abel obeyed God and brought a lamb as he was a shepherd. God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's offering. Cain was angry and God confronted him by saying "If you obey my commandments, you will be accepted. If you rebel against me, sin is at your door. If you don't rule over it, it will rule over you." One day Cain asked Abel to go in the field with him and there he slew Abel. God confronted Cain with these words, "Where is your brother?" Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God placed a curse on Cain for killing his brother. He would be a wanderer all the days of his life; he would not be able to grow crops again because his brother's blood was spilled on the ground; he would be separated from God's presence all the days of his life.

Sin separates us from God.

I read the story of Monica Lewinsky a while ago. The story was sad but revealing concerning Satan's tactics to tear people down. Monica was a young intern at the White House. Her mother knew someone in charge of hiring interns and she thought it would be a good opportunity for Monica before making a final decision on a future career. Little did she realize the heartache and sorrow that would come to her daughter by making this move.

Monica had been brought up in a culture that worships sex. To her sex was something that should be open and casual if that was what a person chose to do and there was absolutely nothing wrong with that.

She met President Clinton and flirted with him as he was shaking hands with the public. Their eyes met and they connected. From that day on, she became infatuated with Bill and soon she was deeply involved with him. She felt important and was thrilled to be secretly involved with the president of the United States. She never dreamed that the fairy tale romance would end the way that it did. Her family suffered financially, emotionally, and socially because of the rumors and coverage from the media concerning the adulterous relationship. She couldn't even get a job when the ordeal was made public and her name became a household word relating to

stupidity. Everyone knows her name and everything that was done in secret was exposed for the world to see. A child was born from that relationship and he will also bear the brunt of the illicit affair. Her life has certainly been very hard because of the decisions she made as a young unknown intern who got caught up in a sexual relationship with Bill Clinton. Their names will be forever linked in the history of the United States in a negative way. Now years later she advocates for women that have been sexually abused by powerful men.

Sin so often looks attractive and it promises to bring much pleasure, wealth and excitement. For those who fall for the charms that are dangled in front of their eyes, the price is often far more than one ever thought it would be. Shame, guilt and hardships are the end result of sinful indulgences.

The Bible says that “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.” Psalms 37:23.

Proverbs 3:5 says this: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths.”

The Bible characters who asked counsel from the Lord were protected from going down the wrong path. Those who followed their own desires were put to shame. Though many of them found forgiveness by confessing to the Lord, many were put to shame and suffered spiritually and some even died because of the path they chose.

I encourage you to place your trust in Jesus Christ, study the Bible and learn what Jesus has to say about sin and how to avoid the snares that Satan sets for people.

King David sinned greatly because of his own lust, but he repented and his Psalms are wonderful to memorize. He wrote, “Your word is a lamp unto my path and a light to my feet.” Psalms 119:105.

Psalms 119:11 tells us how to keep from sinning against the Lord. David said, “Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Satan is a master deceiver. The Bible says much about his character.

Revelation 9:11 calls him Abaddon, the destroyer.

Revelation 12:10 calls him the accuser

1 Peter 5:8 calls him the adversary

John 8:44 calls him the murderer

Matthew 13:19 calls him the evil one.

Ephesians 6:11 calls him a trickster

2 Timothy 2:26 calls him the trapper.

All of these various names imply that earth’s angry enemy is bent against every act of good will. Only those who trust in Jesus, who call on his name, who put on the whole armor of God will be able to withstand the schemes of Satan. I urge you to ask Jesus into your heart and allow him to open up your understanding to His Word so you will find peace and joy in this life and gain eternal life. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” He is waiting for you to invite him into your heart and into your situation that he might direct your path.