

What Are My Options?

Taken From Deuteronomy 30

Foundation

Take a moment to quiet your thoughts before the Lord. Tell God what is on your heart, and then give Him a chance to tell you what is on His. Ask Him to give you the courage and strength to choose wisely in your life.



Ah, that's no big deal – don't worry; it'll all work out.

Loosen up and give yourself a break!

I didn't follow those rules, and no one said anything to me.

You can always worry about that later.

Go for it! You only live once!

Do you sometimes struggle with listening to the world's advice?

“Choose this day which path you will take,” Moses advised. His words were solid, firm, and sure. There would be no misunderstanding of the last words and important advice Moses desired to leave with the Israelites. Each and every face before him represented a choice, and those individual choices would have a combined effect on the well-being of the nation as they ventured into the new land. Obedience to God wouldn't be

a mere option; it would be a matter of life or death. Moses knew the Israelites needed to understand this important matter.

“The command I’m challenging you with isn’t something strange or new to you, or beyond your ability to understand,” Moses declared. “It’s something you’ve already known about since your time in the wilderness,” he reminded them.

“Therefore, don’t look for someone to tell you the right thing to do, because God has already told you.” Moses looked into as many faces as he possibly could. He

met their gazes, encouraging and challenging them with words both spoken and unspoken. Only moments ago he had explained the curses that would fall upon the nation if they turned their backs on God.

“Carefully follow the terms of this covenant so you will do well,” Moses challenged. “Today, all of you are standing in the presence of the Lord your God. You are here to enter into a covenant the Lord is making with you this day and is sealing with an oath,” Moses added. The Israelites nodded in agreement. They knew God had called them to be a nation set apart as an example, that through their influence the world might know that the Lord is God.

Moses continued, “The covenant is this: the Lord will give you success only if you obey Him and faithfully follow His commands and decrees written in the Book of

the Law, and only if you turn to Him with all your heart and soul. However, if you choose not to do so, you will experience the same death and destruction your enemies face.” Having heard these options, the Israelites needed no further explanations.

Moses became quiet for a moment. These words would be God’s marching orders and his closing advice to the Israelites. “This day heaven and earth are witnesses to the fact that the choice before you is either life or death, blessings or curses,” he challenged. “Choose life for you and your children. Choose to love God, who is your Lord, cherish His voice, and depend on Him—for He is your life.”

The purpose of the Law was to point the Israelites to God’s holiness. Romans 3:20 in the New Testament states: “No one will be declared righteous in [God’s] sight by observing the [Law]; rather, through the [Law] we become conscious of sin.

The Israelites considered the seriousness of Moses' advice. Clearly a line had been drawn in the sand. To choose obedience would be to choose God's blessings. To choose disobedience would mean their destruction. Either way, the choice was theirs. Moses had given his advice, and now God would give the Israelites what they chose.

Footwork

In your Bible, turn to Deuteronomy 30:15-18 and read it. Specifically look for the words "if," "but," and "then" (or similar words in your version of the Bible) and carefully read what follows them. Does this seem harsh to you?



Today it's hard for us to imagine that what we do or don't do has a life-or-death consequence. That's because we have lost sight of the holiness of God. From the Old Testament times to now, God has not changed. He is still a holy God, and the line is still drawn in the sand. The only difference is the conditions. Instead of living and dying by the Law, we have a different option. God has provided a sacrifice for our guilt of not living up to His laws. To accept God's provision is to choose life. To reject it ... The choice is yours. On which side of the line will you take your stand?