

CHOOSING YOUR FUTURE

Getting Ready For The Rest of Your Life – Part 1

January 3rd & 6th, 2019

One of our greatest gifts God has given us (freedom to **choose**), is also our greatest **curse** because we often make stupid choices

The problem with New Year's resolutions is we usually don't make them regarding the most **important** things in life, and we try to accomplish them by **willpower**

“TO **RESOLVE**”: *to decide, settle, determine, purpose*

“**RESOLUTION**”: *a firm determination to do something*

MOSES' 4 LIFE-SHAPING CHOICES - Hebrews 11:23-27

What **happens** to you in life is not nearly as important as the **choices** you make

We make our choices, & then our choices **make us**. Your **character** is the sum total of your choices

1. Refuse to be **defined** by others

God made you to be **you**

Hebrews 11:24 (NIV) “By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.”

Question: Who are you letting **determine** your identity?

Romans 12:2 (Ph) “Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good...”

Exodus 23:2 (NIV) “Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.”

1 Thess. 2:4 (NLT) “Our purpose is to please God, not people. He is the one who examines the motives of our hearts.”

When you know who you are, it sets you free from the fear of **disapproval**

You can **trust** God

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) “I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

2. Choose short-term **pain** for long-term **gain**

Most of the problems in your life come from your inability to delay **gratification**

Hebrews 11:25 (NIV) “Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.”

Sin is **fun** – for a **season**. It's **short** term

God has given you free choice to make **any** choice you want, but you are not free from the **consequences** of those choices

You may have to refuse certain things, **before** you choose to make some resolutions – the negative is **followed** by a positive

Question: Where do you need to start accepting **responsibility** for your life?

You are as happy as you **choose** to be because happiness is a **choice**

You can't **live off** of somebody else's spiritual commitment

We are products of our past, but we don't have to be **prisoners** of our past. Your past has influenced you, but it doesn't **control** you

Nobody can ruin your life except **you** because you have the power of **choice**

The pain you go through can help you **grow**

Romans 5:3-4 (NCV) “We can have joy in our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope.”

God is going to **reward** me for the pain I go through for following Him when I get to heaven

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT) “These present troubles are quite small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!”

God is more interested in your **character** than your **comfort**

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

3. Choose **God’s values**, not the **world’s**

Hebrews 11:26 (NIV) “Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

Question: What **matters most** in your life? (Until you clarify your values, you can’t live by them)

If **you** don’t decide what’s important in your life, **others** will decide for you

The world’s values center on three things: **passion, possessions, position**

WHAT THE WORLD VALUES

- Popularity (Prestige & Power) vs. 24
- Pleasure “*the pleasures of sin*” vs. 25
- Possessions “*the treasures of Egypt*” vs. 26

1 John 2:17 (GN) “The world & everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever.”

WHAT GOD VALUES

1. God’s **purpose** is more valuable than popularity (*verse 24*)
2. **People** are more valuable than pleasure (*verse 25*)
3. Peace of **mind** is more valuable than possessions (*verse 26*)

Peace of mind comes from doing the **will** of God

4. Choose to live by **faith**, not by **fear**

Hebrews 11:27 (NIV) “By faith, Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.”

The **closer** you get to God, the less **fear** you’re going to have in your life

What matters is not the size of your **faith** but the size of the **God** you put it in

Galatians 2:16 (CEV) “No one can please God by simply obeying the Law. So we put our faith in Christ Jesus, and God accepted us because of our faith.”

HOW DO I KEEP MY RESOLUTIONS?

- Get **support** from a **small group**

At New Hope our small groups are the **real church**

Hebrews 10:24-25 (GN) “Let us be concerned for one another, and help one another show love and do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other...”

- Ask & expect God to **help**

Isaiah 50:7 (NLT) “Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do His will. And I know that I will triumph!”

Focus on God & **faith** in God is how you keep a resolution

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will attend all six weeks & hear all six messages in “Live your calling: What on Earth Am I Here For?”
- I will participate in a small group during this message series

Next Week we’ll hear “Where We Are & Where We’re Going.” Don’t miss it. Invite a friend!!!