

DEMYSTIFYING OUR WALK WITH GOD 12.8.18

Simplifying our walk with God – it is not too difficult to serve the living God – it is not mysterious, nor hidden. Deuteronomy 30:11-20.

¹¹ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. ¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy in Romans 10:5-15 in the context of salvation.

⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

It is not too difficult to live this day. There are some choices to make and live in, not for us alone, but for our families and family future.

Joshua 7:10. ‘The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?’ Before ‘Jericho’ Joshua had sought the Lord, on his face. Prior to Ai the people were sought and after that disaster Joshua fell on his face. It is better to have sought God prior, to choose what is right, and how to do it. ‘Why are you on your face Joshua? Stand up and do this....’ Step by step and victory comes.

Joshua 24:14-17. “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

We know Who to choose. We need to know how to choose. If we will choose Christ, all other decisions are simplified.

Psalms 119:11 ‘I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.’

Psalms 119:105 – His Word is a lamp to our feet (shows us our standing, our position) and a light to our path (illuminates the way we are to walk with Him). Our walk with God is not difficult, not is it spooky/mysterious. It is not difficult to be led by the Holy Spirit and this is life and peace.

God can direct our steps. Psalm 1:1-3 we saw the progression of sin – walking with Christ; something takes our eye, our hand, our heart and we slow to a standstill; if we don't stand up then and choose to follow Jesus we will sit with those who mock Him, the scornful, the scoffers.

Our focus in this message is our walk with God; we are ripe to make right decisions.

Deuteronomy 29:29 *'The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.'*

Some things are beyond us; some things are profound mysteries and some things God has already revealed to us that are right for us to walk in, and other things that are right to cut off or walk away from. It is not too difficult to come in to relationship with Christ – God has wooed us, called us – the Gospel makes the good news clear and we respond by receiving Christ, believing in His Name. We chose Him as our Saviour and He saved us from our sin and for Himself, for eternity. From that point there are continual decisions to be made as we learn how to walk with Him without turning away or turning back.

Decision: - from the Latin – de (off) and root word 'cis' (cut) – we decide: we cut some things off.

This day choose – what is important, what is God, what is acceptable to God, what is excellent, what is necessary. God has already made it clear those things that are appointed for us, good things. To choose these things is to cut off those things that are not appointed for us. This brings clarity, singleness of mind. If we are married we chose our wife, our husband – this was and remains to the exclusion of all others; leaves no other options. We are overburdened with choices; boundless choices placed before students finishing senior school. Increasingly the bigger life decisions are being made later in life and there is often confusion over so many things on offer.

We choose Jesus for salvation. He is also Lord, the great, greatest authority as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is higher, above, beyond, the great and final authority. If we will choose Him as Lord, from that point all other decisions are simplified.

As we choose Him as Lord, some things need to be cut off and some things fall away as we walk with Him. Choosing Jesus makes life very clear. We can debate His Lordship, His Mastership – it won't change His position. Paul speaks to the Corinthian fellowship in 1 Corinthians 2-3; they were making choices the way natural (not born again, Spirit led) people do – in following men, or this or that – he exhorted them to *follow Christ*. There were mysteries but what we need to know Christ has revealed; we have His mind – in other words we know what is right, to do and be.

Matthew 6:22-24. *'The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!'*

No one can serve two masters. Be careful what you give your eye to because you may run after it and it may become your master. The Welsh Revival revealed to the world that following Jesus (Christianity) has the ability to change culture, to change a city, a nation, the world. When we make good and right decisions, others are affected for Christ.

'Do Something' Matt West. The story behind the song, Kevin Davis.

Often, we debate about things that are already settled. See the story behind 'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus' the words to this song were spoken by a man who converted to Christ through the gospel delivered by a missionary sent out from the Welsh revival to India. If we want to change the world it will come from the decisions we make.

First: we choose to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back. Second: we decide (cut away) those things that are not acceptable. Is there anyone we hate? Jesus taught us to love. Is there unforgiveness? Jesus taught us unconditional forgiveness. Have I stretched my own tent pegs? God won't do this for me. How do I continually speak? What do I continually look at? If we want to simplify life, choose Jesus and choose to follow Jesus. People run from hypocrisy. We need to turn this around; if not us, then who? If not now, then when? There are simple things we have been asked to do, just do them. We have no right to carry sin that Christ has cut away from us; don't pick it up again. Decide to follow Jesus and hold dearly on to Him; no turning back.