



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	You Choose – Life Before & After
Topic	Choose Wisely
Speaker	Ps Andrew Tan
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Message Summary

Choose Wisely

Life is a sum of choices – It is estimated that we make about 1.7 million choices throughout our lifetime. Every choice is an avenue for us to decide who we want to become, and where we want to spend our eternity. In Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Moses stands at the edge of the river with the people after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, and urges them to choose God. The message is neither a command nor a warning, but a plea for the people to turn to the Lord. How then can we, as people living in the 21st century, also apply the same truth in our lives?

There are consequences to our choices

To be able to make a wise choice, we must first recognise that there are consequences to every decision made. These consequences may be in the form of blessings or curses, life or death.

We are free to make whatever choices we want, but it is important to be aware that we are not free from the consequences of our choices. While decisions may be made within seconds, consequences can have impact on a lifetime. For instance, when Adam and Eve chose to partake of the forbidden fruit, they became separated from God, and that spiritual death eventually led to physical death. Compare this with Jesus who chose to obey God, even when His obedience took Him all the way to the cross. It is because Jesus paid the price of our sins on the cross that we, as His people, may now be fully forgiven and made sinless.

What about the choices in our daily lives? When it comes to choosing a life partner, God warns us not to be unequally yoked. In our marriages, He prompts us to choose to stay faithful to our spouses. With regards to parenting, we are reminded to raise our children in the fear and knowledge of God.

In life, it is important that we know who is the ultimate authority in the choices we make. If we choose to base our decisions on what society expects and wants for us, it is likely that those choices will no longer be the same years down the road, as society's perceptions are ever-changing and fleeting. If we choose to obey God, however, His principles will never change. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever.



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We must know the condition of our hearts

As followers of Christ, we must love the Lord our God, listen to His voice, and always hold fast to Him. Recognizing that our hearts are prone to change puts us one step closer to making wise choices, as we become aware of the dangers of straying from Him. The speaker reminds us that if we do not actively or intentionally make a choice, someone, or something, will make the choice for us. In the bible, Daniel's willingness to honor God and keep His Word even when he was in hunger showed his faithfulness to God. Likewise for us, if we have not decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, then we have chosen not to follow God wholeheartedly. We should never let surrounding circumstances dictate our choices.

As His people, we must make God our most treasured possession, deliberately clinging onto Him. We must actively and intentionally choose Him in all things. Our choice to follow God is not a one-time decision; our relationship with Him is a lifelong one. More importantly, even before coming to any crossroads in life, we must already make up our minds to trust in God, lean on the Holy Spirit, and walk with Him.

Conclusion

The ability to make choices is a gift from God – We will always have a choice to follow Him. While God never promises us a bed of roses when we choose Him, He has given us access to His heavenly storehouses so we may use His tools to overcome any difficult situation in life. The decision is on us to choose wisely.



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Questions

What are two things we must know before we can make wise choices?

(Fill In Answer Here)

Which one of the two things mentioned above do you personally resonate with? Share your experiences.

(Fill In Answer Here)

What does it look like when something has authority over our lives? What steps can we take to submit to the Lord completely, and manage competition/distraction from other areas?

(Fill In Answer Here)
