

Choose Part 1 January 7, 2023

Definition of choose: to pick out or select someone or something as being the best or most appropriate of two or more **alternatives**. Select; pick; opt for; take; decide on; fix on; come down in favor of; vote for; single out; handpick; set; designate; determine; specify; appoint; name; adopt

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, **choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Joshua 24:15

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose** for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Choose to step forward into growth or to step backward into safety and stagnation. (You will not grow if you hide in your comfort zone.)

Choose to nurse and rehearse your burdens, and the wounds inflicted by those who wronged you **or choose** to recognize the opportunities awaiting you.

- **Philippians 3:13**

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**

Choose to trash your temple or to treat it like the treasure it is.

- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Choose to either invest your time wisely **or** to spend it frivolously. (You can get more money; you cannot get more time.)

- **Ephesians 5:15-16**

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Choose a lifestyle that restores and sustains. A lifestyle that restores will sustain. (Include stress management; avoiding toxic substances **and** toxic people; making positive connections; eating wisely; exercising regularly; sleeping restfully.)

Choose to learn from your mistakes and your successes. **Every lesson learned is a blessing.**

Every choice has a consequence:

Choice	Consequence
Lucifer chose to exalt himself above God.	God kicked Lucifer and his followers out of heaven. Isaiah 14: 12-15 Revelation 12:7-9
Eve chose to believe satan and Adam chose not to intervene.	God evicted Adam and Eve from the Garden. Genesis 3:1-24
Abel chose to bring God his best.	God respected Abel's offering. Genesis 4:1-15
Cain chose not to bring his best to God.	God did not respect Cain's offering. Genesis 4:1-15
Cain chose to yield to his temper and kill Abel.	God cursed and marked Cain so that wherever he went, he would suffer the consequences of his crime. Genesis 4:1-15
Noah chose to obey God and built a boat despite having never seen rain.	Noah rescued his family and the creatures on the earth. Genesis 6:13-22 Genesis 7:1-24
Daniel chose to request food that he knew would be healthy for him.	Daniel was in better health than the young men who ate the king's delicacies Daniel 1:8
Daniel chose to remain faithful to God despite the threat of death.	Daniel survived the lions' den. Daniel 6:6-23
Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego chose to remain faithful to God despite the threat of death.	Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego survived the fiery furnace. Daniel 3:8-27
David chose to take on Goliath, an enemy that frightened King Saul's army, including David's big strapping brothers.	David was victorious and received great riches, the king's daughter, and tax exemption for his father's house. 1 Samuel 17:20-51
Jochebed, mother of Moses chose to hide baby Moses for three months and then set him adrift on the Nile rather than let Egyptian soldiers kill him.	Moses survived to be raised in Pharaoh's palace. Exodus chapters 2 thru 12

Choice	Consequence
Moses chose to obey God rather than Pharaoh.	Moses led the nation of Israel out of bondage. Exodus chapters 3 thru 12
Job chose to remain faithful to God regardless of how many tragedies and calamities occurred in his life.	God blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. Job 42:12
Joseph the son of Jacob chose to honor God when tempted by Potiphar's wife and when Potiphar put him in prison.	God showed Joseph favor. He became second to Pharaoh and saved Egypt and his own family from famine. Genesis 39:19-23 NKJV
Virgin Mary chose to believe the angel Gabriel when he told her that she would conceive the Son of God by Holy Spirit.	Mary gave birth to the Son of God. Luke 1: 26-38
Joseph the carpenter chose to believe the angel who came to him and told him to marry Mary.	Joseph married Mary even though she was pregnant with someone else's baby. He helped raise the Son of God. Matthew 1:18-25
The Magi chose to seek out Jesus and chose to ignore Herod's request that they return to him with the whereabouts of the Christ child.	Herod did not get the opportunity to kill Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12
Simon Peter chose to lend Jesus his boat.	Peter caught a net-breaking load of fish, more than he <u>and</u> his partners could handle. Luke 5: 1-11
Jesus chose 12 apostles. In addition, Jesus chose an inner circle (Peter, James, John)	Peter, James, John witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. Matthew 17:1-8
The centurion chose to believe that a word spoken by Jesus would heal his servant.	The centurion's servant was healed. Matthew 8:5-13
The woman who had been bleeding for 12 years chose to press through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus' garment.	The woman was healed. Matthew 9:20-22 Mark 5:25-34

Choice	Consequence
Jairus chose to trust Jesus with his 12-year-old daughter.	Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. Matthew 9:18-26 Mark 5:21-42 Luke 8:40-56
The boy with two fishes and five loaves chose to trust Jesus with his lunch.	Thousands ate until they were filled and 12 baskets full were leftover. John 6:1-14
Peter chose to ask for the opportunity in a storm to step out of the boat.	Peter walked on water. Matthew 14: 22-33
The ten lepers chose to ask Jesus for healing.	Jesus healed them. Luke 17:11-19
Mary , sister of Lazarus, chose to focus on Jesus. Martha chose to focus on everything except Jesus.	Mary experienced the precious opportunity to sit at the feet of the Master and hear His words. Martha missed that opportunity. Luke 10:38-42
Jesus chose to submit to the will of God and allowed the Roman soldiers to crucify Him despite the excruciating pain.	Jesus' sacrifice made eternal life available to those who accept Him as Lord and Savior Matthew 26:47-75 Matthew 27:1-66 Matthew 28:1-20

So, this year, this month, this week, this day, it is time for you to choose! In the name of Jesus, Amen.