

Decisive Indecision

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. John 7:24 - What the Lord wants
 - 1. He wants us to make judgments and decisions
 - 2. He wants us to use wisdom and prudence in so doing
- B. Make wise choices - Deut. 30:19; 1Kings 18:21
 - 1. Be decisive - Prov. 4:25-27; Isa. 50:7
 - 2. Perseverance math
 - a. Patience + nothing else = enduring, surviving (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - b. Willpower + nothing else = acting, doing (to what purpose; accomplishing what?)
 - c. Patience + Willpower = Perseverance (accomplishing good, doing well in the long term, to the end)

I. WHY WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE DECISIONS

- A. Fear of uncertain outcomes (Fear of failure)
 - 1. Matt. 25:24-26 - No risk, no problem? Nothing ventured, nothing lost?
- B. Fear of leadership or fear of being alone in the choice
 - 1. Wait for someone else; husband waits for wife, or vice versa
 - 2. Some believe they are incapable of making decisions
 - 3. Must be convenient to say, "I am willpower and courage disabled."
 - 4. 1Cor. 6:2-3
- C. Irresponsible - John 9:39-41
 - 1. You can't have it both ways; you can't have the privileges of adulthood without the responsibilities; you can't have the blessings in Christ without bearing a cross
- D. Unhealthy fear of God - (i.e., "He's eagerly waiting to punish me if I make a single mistake")
 - 1. Prov. 29:25; Isa 51:12-13; Heb. 12:9-12
- E. Do not want to move out of my comfort zone - Acts 1:8, 8:1
- F. Don't trust God for the results
 - 1. Since we can't see past the horizon, we think God can't either
 - 2. 1Sam 13:8-14 - Saul made an impatient, unauthorized offering at Gilgal

II. HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS

- A. Heavy focus on prayer - Neh. 1:4
- B. Gather all necessary instruction and information
 - 1. Count the cost (assets and liabilities) - Luke 14:28-30
 - 2. Get a first-hand view of the work - Neh. 2:12-16
- C. Seek Godly counsel - Prov. 15:22; Judges 18:5
- D. Never rush into a critical decision - Prov. 15:28, 21:5, 29:20
- E. Never make a decision when emotions run high - Numbers 14:39-45
- F. Ask: Will this decision hinder my Christian walk and influence?
 - 1. How will it impact the rest of my life? My family? My brethren & friends?