

DECISIONS YOU FACE—HOW WILL YOU MAKE THEM?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to realize that each one must make his own decisions. Wise decisions always take into consideration God's Word, one's conscience, and one's dedication to God. Once a person makes a responsible decision, he should stick to it and not be constantly changing his mind. Be careful not to make rules for the audience on personal matters

AVOID BEING INDECISIVE (9 min.)

All of us face numerous situations that call for decisions

These may relate to purchases, budgets, employment, health, marriage, relations with people, use of time, entertainment, and so forth

We cannot avoid making decisions

Many people have the tendency to be indecisive

They often want someone else to make decisions for them

The Bible frowns on indecisiveness (Jas 1:7, 8)

The Greek word for indecisive means "two-souled"

We must be whole-souled to Jehovah, fully living up to our decision to serve him (*w79 5/15 22*)

Indecisiveness robs us of time and opportunities (Eph 5:15, 16; *g90 2/8 18*)

Because they would not make a decision, nation of Israel robbed themselves of time they could have spent in worshipping God (1Ki 18:21)

We must learn how to make sound decisions since we cannot go back in time and undo our mistakes (*w82 10/1 3*)

Need to know which decisions it is our responsibility to make (*Ga 6:5; w73 542*)

USE WISDOM IN MAKING DECISIONS FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE (14 min.)

At place of employment, there are decisions one must make

Other matters should be referred to one's employer (Eph 6:5, 6)

In the home, wife makes many decisions every day (Pr 31:11, 16, 18; *it-2 342, 1197*)

Some things must be decided by her husband (*fl 55-6*)

A child also makes many decisions (*fl 151-5*)

These are subject to the approval of his parents (Lu 2:40-42; Col 3:20; *g88 1/8 19-21; yp 11-17; yy 73-9*)

Certain decisions involve Christian conscience

Choice of employment (1Co 10:31; *w82 7/15 26; w72 591-600*)

Entertainment, use of time, decided by conscience (*w79 6/1 3-20; yp 289-303*)

In many cases even though one has the responsibility to make a certain decision, it is a considerate thing to discuss the matter first with others who may be involved (*w89 5/15 12-13*)

MAKE WISE DECISIONS BY LOOKING TO GOD FOR DIRECTION (11 min.)

Not our responsibility to decide right and wrong

Must look to Jehovah, or we will make calamitous decisions (*w87 10/1 11*)

Apply principles found in God's Word (Ps 119:105; Pr 3:5, 6)

Bible's range of counsel unequaled; contains wisdom for every decision we must make (*w90 4/1 13*)

Good grasp of Bible principles necessary if we are to make sound decisions (*w88 10/1 26*)

Learn to locate these valuable principles for daily decisions (2Ti 2:15)

By practice and training, learn to use Bible study publications, and take necessary time to do so

Reasoning on Bible principles each time one is faced with a decision is vital in reaching Christian maturity (Heb 5:14; *w85 5/1 12*)

Helpful to consult mature Christians on serious matters and to avoid making snap decisions (Pr 12:15; 18:1)

But recognize that you personally must make the decision

Turn to God in prayer, seeking his guidance

Consider how your decision will influence your relationship with Jehovah, how it will affect others, how it will affect your own conscience and your future (*w82 7/15 22-7*)

Jehovah expects us to use our intelligence, knowledge, and judgment and to act on what our faith points us to

Decisions may differ from one person to another (*w72 589-91*)

Depends on the progress to spiritual maturity that has been made and on carefully weighing the pros and cons of the matter

LIVING UP TO OUR DECISIONS (5 min.)

Some decisions that are proper and in accord with God's will still may be hard to live up to because of problems that arise

Firmness in following through is necessary (*w69 174-9*)

Even when right decisions are made, one may continue for a time to experience effects of wrong decisions made in the past

Good results in increasing measure will come to one who firmly adheres to the counsel of God's Word (Ga 6:9)

MOST IMPORTANT DECISION: TAKE UP WORSHIP OF JEHOVAH (6 min.)

Important to recognize obligation to the true God and dedicate life to him (*w93 4/1 4-7; bw 5-14; su 121-8*)

If you have not yet made that decision, urgent to face up to it (Ac 22:14-16; *w89 1/15 14-15*)

If not, may be viewed by Jehovah as "indecisive" sinner (Jas 4:8, 17)

We must be decisive in a right way not merely out of sense of duty but with desire to "draw close to God" (*w79 5/15 22*)

If you have made the decision, vital to follow through on it

Live in full harmony with it (Ro 8:38, 39; *bw 15-28*)

(Other source material: *g90 2/8 18-20; w67 762-6; w63 643-4, 675-6*)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)