

## CHAPTER 8

### Life Or Death

If you had a choice, would you choose LIFE or DEATH? In the physical realm most of us would choose LIFE. If someone were to hand you a sharp knife and say, "You have a choice! You may either put this knife down on the table or you may put this knife through your heart!" would you choose life? If you were handed a sharp razor blade and given the choice of either cutting open the jugular vein of your throat or not, what would your choice be? Would you not choose life?

In the physical realm, most people want to live. But in the spiritual realm, most people foolishly *choose death!* To such people God says, "Why will ye D\_\_\_\_?" (Ezekiel 33:11). God is not pleased when men and women choose death. God wants wicked people to turn from their evil way and L\_\_\_\_\_ (Ezekiel 33:11). According to Matthew 7:13-14, do most people choose the way of life or do most people choose the way of death? \_\_\_\_\_ Those who make the right choice are "FEW" indeed!

God gives every man a clear choice. According to Deuteronomy 30:15, we must choose between life and \_\_\_\_\_ and we must choose between good and \_\_\_\_\_. According to Deuteronomy 30:19, we must choose between life and \_\_\_\_\_ and we must choose between blessing and \_\_\_\_\_. Read verses 16 and 17. Which verse describes the way of life and blessing? \_\_\_\_\_ Which verse describes the way of death and cursing? \_\_\_\_\_ According to verse 19, God tells us what choice we should make. He says, "CHOOSE \_\_\_\_\_." According to verse 20, how is life defined? \_\_\_\_\_ Men must choose the living God or they must choose to reject the living God! "For HE is thy \_\_\_\_\_" (Deut. 30:20). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 14:6). Choose CHRIST and live! "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that \_\_\_\_\_ on me hath \_\_\_\_\_" (John 6:47).

### 1) Where Will Your Companion Take You?

In our study of Proverbs we have already seen that we must choose which COMPANION we are going to walk with down the road of life (see chapter 2). We must choose either the WORLDLY WOMAN or THE WISDOM WOMAN. Which woman is being described in Proverbs 2:16,18,19? \_\_\_\_\_ Is she walking on the path of life? \_\_\_\_\_ Which woman is being described in Proverbs 5:3? \_\_\_\_\_ If you follow her, where will you end up? \_\_\_\_\_ If your friend were going to walk off a cliff, would you walk with him (or her)? \_\_\_\_\_ If someone were swimming in a river infested with man eating crocodiles, would you jump in with him (or her)? \_\_\_\_\_ If you somehow knew that a person would be involved in a fatal car accident, would you want to ride in the car with him? \_\_\_\_\_

God says that if we choose the **WORLDLY WOMAN** as our companion, it will cost us our **L** \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 7:23) because her house is the way to \_\_\_\_\_, going down to the chambers of \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 7:27). Only a **FOOL** would choose her as a companion! This would be like a person choosing to put a knife into his heart!

On the other hand, the **WISDOM WOMAN** is said to be a **TREE OF** \_\_\_\_\_ to them that lay hold upon her (Proverbs 3:18). How happy is the man that makes her his companion!

## 2) Do You Love Death?

Most people would be horrified at the thought that they might love death. They might say, "People that commit suicide may love death, but I certainly do not. I love life!" It's true that most of us love physical life, but how many of us really love spiritual life?

Proverbs chapter 4 is talking about the **WISDOM WOMAN** (see verses 5,6,7, etc.). In Proverbs 4:13 we learn that **SHE IS** \_\_\_\_\_. If a person really loves life then he (or she) will love \_\_\_\_\_ (compare verse 6). Those who do not love wisdom do not love life! They love death!

Proverbs 8:35 says, "For whoso findeth \_\_\_\_\_ findeth \_\_\_\_\_." To whom does the word "me" refer? \_\_\_\_\_. If a person wants to find life, then he must find \_\_\_\_\_. If you were to put the word "CHRIST" in verse 35 instead of the word "me," would the verse still make good sense? \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, "He that hath the \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_" (1 John 5:12). Is wisdom some secret thing that is hard to find? Has God made Himself hard to find? Is the real problem that people *can't* find God or is the real problem that people *do not want* to find God?

\_\_\_\_\_ Christ wants to give people **LIFE**, but do people want to come to the **LIFE-GIVER** (John 5:40)? \_\_\_\_\_

In Proverbs 8:36 **WISDOM** says, "all they that \_\_\_\_\_ me love \_\_\_\_\_." According to this verse, what kind of person **LOVES DEATH**?

\_\_\_\_\_ If you put the word "CHRIST" in this verse instead of the word "me", would the verse still make sense? \_\_\_\_\_ Where are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge to be found (Colossians 2:2-3)? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you love wisdom? Do you love Christ? Do you love God's Word (God's Book of Wisdom)? As you think about the people in your town, would you say that most of them love life or that most of them love death?

## 3) Are You About To Step In The Death Trap?

Read Proverbs 14:12 and compare it with Proverbs 16:25. Can something *seem* right but not *really be* right? \_\_\_\_\_ Can a person think that something is right (see Proverbs 12:15 and 16:2), when it is not really right at all? \_\_\_\_\_ Can a person think that he is on the road to heaven and actually be on the road to hell? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been with your family on a trip and you thought that you were on the right road and heading in the right direction, but you were actually on the wrong road heading in the wrong direction? How can a person BE SURE that he is on the right road? If we follow our own judgment and our own sense of direction we can sometimes go astray, but if we follow a *good MAP*, then we can be sure that we are on the right road. What MAP has God given to us so that we can KNOW that we are on the road which leads to LIFE (compare 1 John 5:13--"these things are \_\_\_\_\_ . . . that you might K \_\_\_\_\_")?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 13:14 and compare it with Proverbs 14:27. A snare is a type of trap. There is a fountain of life and there are traps of death. The wise drink and the foolish get caught! Remember this: A fountain is not something that is hidden. The waters that gush out of a fountain can be seen and heard. On the other hand, traps are hidden and catch you by surprise. Who provides a fountain for those who are thirsty (John 4:14 and John 7:37-38)? \_\_\_\_\_ Who provides a trap (2 Timothy 2:26)? \_\_\_\_\_ God wants to bless you with LIFE; Satan wants to trap you with the snares of DEATH! The worm on the hook looks so good to the fish and the cheese in the mousetrap looks so good to the mouse, but WATCH OUT! They are death traps! Compare James 1:13-15.

#### 4) How Is Your Heart Doing?

"Keep thy \_\_\_\_\_ with all diligence; for out of it are the issues (streams) of \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 4:23). The heart is what really counts! As Jesus said in Matthew 12:34-35, the real problem is not the M \_\_\_\_\_ but the H \_\_\_\_\_. As the fountain, so the streams! If the fountain is poisoned, will the streams be poisoned? \_\_\_\_\_ We need to guard the fountain (the heart) to make sure the waters are pure and clean and healthy. When is the last time you searched your heart to make sure things were right between you and your God?

#### 5) Are You On The Righteous Road?

"In the \_\_\_\_\_ (road) of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_; and in the pathway thereof there is no \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 12:28). Are you on the righteous road or the sin road? According to Romans 6:21, where does the SIN ROAD end up? \_\_\_\_\_ (it's a DEAD END!) Some want to find *LIFE* without following after *RIGHT*. Is this possible (Proverbs 21:21)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6) Whom Do You Fear?

Read these three verses carefully: Proverbs 14:27; 19:23 and 22:4. If a person is going to have LIFE, then he also must have the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD!

Often instead of fearing *GOD* we fear *MEN*, and we begin thinking like this:

"What will *they* think of me?" "What will *they* say?"  
 "Will *they* get angry?" "Will *they* be pleased?" "Maybe *they* will see me!" "I'm afraid of what *they* might do to me!" "Will *they* be upset or offended?" "Will *they* still be friendly towards me?" "What will *they* want me to say?"  
 "What will *they* want me to do?" "Where will *they* want me to go?" "I'm afraid *they* will not be happy with me!"  
 "I don't think *they* will approve of this." "They might frown on my actions!" "I hope *they* will appreciate what I'm about to do!"

If we really want to have the fear of the LORD, then we should think differently. In the above sentences we should remove the word "*they*" and what word should we replace it with?

\_\_\_\_\_ This is the fear of the Lord!

## 7) What Is Our Conclusion?

What choice will you make? LIFE or DEATH? HEAVEN or HELL? WISDOM or FOLLY? In Proverbs 1:24 what choice was made? In Proverbs 1:29 what choice was made? Because of their WRONG CHOICE today, God will someday say, "SEEK AND YE SHALL NOT FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL NOT BE OPENED UNTO YOU" (Proverbs 1:28 and compare Luke 13:24). May we choose LIFE. May we choose CHRIST, "who is our \_\_\_\_\_" (Colossians 3:4). May we choose to have a living and eternal relationship with the living God (see John 17:3). What choice have you made?

