

The Choice is Ours

by Sam Dilbeck

Basic Parenting 101 reveals part of the parents' duty is to teach their children how to make decisions.

One parenting resource warned against sending kids to the bedroom to get dressed fearing they may return with shorts and a tank top for freezing weather. Instead, pick some appropriate choices, lay them out and allow the child to decide what to wear from those. As children grow, choices become more impactful: how to use free time, what books to read, what clothes to buy, etc. The goal is to raise adults who are not crippled by indecisiveness, spending forty-five minutes in the office supply store trying to choose a pen.

Considering the choices teens and young adults must make, the importance of good decision making skills becomes clear. Teens must decide what kind of personality they will have. Who their friends will be. And who they will date. As they complete high school, they must decide between school, workforce, military, or Mom's basement. If they choose college, where? Which branch of the military? PC or Mac? By age 25 most people have at least met the person they will marry if they have not already married them. These decisions leave an indelible mark on their lives, so it is imperative they have the skills to make good choices.

The single most important decision anyone will ever make is between heaven and hell. Young or old,

everyone must choose—even abstaining is a choice. Life's success or failure depends on our decision to live for heaven or live for hell.

As Jesus closed his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7, he challenged the listeners to make their choice. There are two roads signifying two directions, one leading to life the other to destruction (13-14). In the next breath Jesus identified two trees based upon the influence they had on others, one produced healthy fruit the other produced diseased fruit (15-20). Then he offered two lives, one giving lip-service to God, the other giving life-service to God (21-23). Finally, Jesus offered two builders, the wise and the foolish. One built his house on obedience and it weathered the storms of life, the other built his house on disobedience and it was crushed (24-27).

In each picture Jesus sets out two and only two possibilities. One of the choices leads to heaven and eternal life. The other leads to destruction and hell. He urged his hearers to choose life.

Jesus continues urging us to choose life today. The choice is ours. Will we make the decision to walk the narrow way, produce the healthy fruits, do the will of the Father, and build on the foundation of obedience? We have to if we are to be successful. Then we must give our children the skills to make the right decision too.

JESUS

THE PERFECT LEADER



THE WESTHILL SUMMER SERIES 2015

Compassionate Leader (June 3) • Servant Leader (June 10) • Redeeming Leader (June 17) • Humble Leader (June 24) • Bold Leader (July 1) • Forgiving Leader (July 8) • Visionary Leader (July 22) • Motivating Leader (July 29) • Transformational Leader (August 5) • Prayerful Leader (August 12) • Charismatic Leader (August 19) • Sacrificial Leader (August 26)

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)

Prayer List

Rita Compton, Carrie Gibson's sister, has been placed on Hospice. Please, keep the Compton & Gibson families in your prayers.

Corrine Blackwell, former member of Westhill, is in failing health. She would appreciate your prayers and cards (address on page 3).

Continue to Remember: Yvonne Ainsworth, Robert Bess, Velma McDougald, Eula Parrish, Meagan Gould, Dalton McCullough, Carl Schmidt, and Jayme Shafer.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver

Announcements

We Are Thrilled that Chris & Courtney Neiman have placed their membership with us. Welcome!

Camp Ida Begins Today. Our teenagers left early this morning. Please, pray for their safety in travel and throughout the week.

A Kids for Christ Devo will be hosted at Don & Vicki Ivy's house this Saturday, June 20 at 5:30 PM. Please, contact Greg Olsen if you'll be able to attend.

Days in the Sun - The Kids for Christ (5th grade and younger) will have a service project on Sunday, June 28 in the Outreach Center following the morning worship service.

Online Registration for our Leadership Initiative, "Radical," is now open. All young men, aged 13-20, are encouraged to join us July 31 - Aug. 2. Register now at www.westhillchurchofchrist.org.

10th Annual Ladies Retreat! Grab a friend and join us for a wonderful time Sep. 25-26 at Summers Mill in Salado, TX. Cost is \$65 for the retreat and \$12 for the T-shirt (optional). There's still room. Sign up before June 26 to ensure your spot!

Open House at Sam & Julie Dilbeck's House (1716 Bowie Circle) on Friday evening, June 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone is invited to come see their newly remodeled kitchen and dining room!

VBS This Week at North Beaton Church of Christ. You're invited to join them for "A Backyard Adventure" each evening at 7:00 PM.

The Ladies at Eastside Church of Christ invite our ladies to their 10th annual Ladies' Day program on June 27 at 9:15 AM. Charlene Milton of Fairfield and Rowena Winfrey of Corsicana will speak on "Walk in the Light: Letting Your Light Shine for Jesus."

Birthdays This Week

June 15 - Barbara Glass

June 16 - Polly Prater

June 17 - La Donna Hand, Josie Horn, Rusty Owens

June 18 - Margaret Ford, Caroline Southard, Lorie Stovall

June 20 - Bobby Compton, Devin Garrett, Corey McDougald, Gay Wright

Next Week's Class

Rebuilding God's Temple
Ezra 3-6

Records for May 31, 2015

Bible Class	181
AM Worship	251
PM Worship	160
Wednesday	164
Contribution	\$11,322.07

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	James Horn
Opening Prayer	Jim Haden
Communion Leader	Tim Cooke
Communion Servers	
Scott Barham	David Baumgartner
Bryan Bearden	Dan Gibson
Wade Hall	Don Ivy
Michael Jones	Buck Murphy
Rick Newton	Aubrey Parrish
Austin Roughton	
Closing Prayer	Micah Haden
Nursery	Kerri Barham & Ashley Jones
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	James Horn
PM Closing Prayer	Kyle Slaughter
Wed. Song Leader	Brody Owens
Summer Series	Don Walker
June Contact Elder	Percell Milton - 903.673.1819