

Let Christ Be Our Guide

On the old television show “Hee Haw,” Doc Campbell was confronted by a patient who said he broke his arm in two places. The doc replied, “Well then, stay out of them places!” Many times, in our lives we make the decision to refrain or refuse things we know are not the best choice for us to make. It starts out with smaller choices that so many people would say are trivial. “Will it hurt me to watch one “R” rated movie? Will it be a big deal if I take one or two drinks on occasion? What is wrong with a little immorality in my life?” When we take a proper stand on the smaller choices, the right decisions we need to make about the bigger ones become easier.

There are choices to be made and sometimes those choices will have to include our refusal to accept certain things as part of our lives. There comes a time when we need to eliminate some of the multitude of “good” things and make way for the great things God wants to do through us. Are all the good things in life all that good for us?

We are blessed people because we have a multitude of wisdom made available to us in one written book, the Bible, but that is not the only source of wisdom we possess. We also have many examples of what happens to people who make foolish choices, and we have the memory of the foolish mistakes we have made. Have you ever done anything you now consider to be stupid, and you know you will never do again? If you lived up north, did you ever stick your tongue to a frozen piece of metal? I never have because I saw other stupid people who did it.

So, how can I make wise choices? I found two sources of information on this. One is from the book *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. He offers some questions we can ask ourselves when we need to discern the difference between a good choice and a bad choice. The second resource comes from Charles Stanley and his *In Touch Ministry*. Some of the questions are similar or overlap, so I will combine the two. 1. Is it helpful physically, spiritually, or mentally? 2. Will it control me? 3. Will it hurt or help anybody else? 4. Will it help me accomplish my goals in life? 5. Will it be wise stewardship of my time and resources? 6. Will it fit into God’s Biblical teaching? 7. Will it glorify God?

Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him @ royfcc@yahoo.com.