**Synopsis – Choosing God**

***15****“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.****16****If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.****17****But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,****18****I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.****19****I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,****20****loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20, ESV)*

 Choosing between life and death is a daily decision. Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we talk today about a foundational truth which is present in our lives every single day. Each day, we make decisions. Each day, we choose to be either life-giving people, or death-giving. Daily, we offer to those around us, through our lifestyle and behavior, God and his pure, constructive, healing, and soothing presence; or we present the Evil One’s persona, which is destructive, wounding, and cursing. In this passage, God was teaching His people as a father the meaning of life. Thus, in this vein, we’re going to talk today about this daily choice – with the hope that our daily decisions become more God-pleasing and to better enjoy God’s life and blessing as opposed to this world’s emptiness, disappointment, and curses. Again, choosing between life and death, as big of a reality as it sounds, is really an everyday decision for us. Let’s move to our analysis…

 Choosing the good is tied to the obedience of your heart toward God. This subject was already being explained from the beginning of the chapter. Even when we look at books like Leviticus, we see that God thru it was teaching the people the existence of the holy, pure, and Godly, versus the unclean, evil and antitheistic. Similarly, Deuteronomy was a re-presentation of the core Mosaic Law of the earlier portion of first five books (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers). What we find in the passage above is an important conclusion related to the teaching in question. There was the possibility of experiencing blessings or curses for God’s people. Based on their level and object of obedience, i.e.., their repentance (or “turning back”) experience, God was going to “turn back” all their blessings to them.[[1]](#footnote-1) When they came out of their disobedience, the people of God would come out of their exile. God had promised them a complete restoration, if their repentance was complete, if they completely turned back to God.

 The story is told about a missionary in South Africa who saw a Dutchman come into the service and be greatly convicted of sin by God, thus causing him to repent and be converted. The next morning, he went to the beautiful home of another Dutchman and said to him, "Do you recognize that old watch?" "Why, yes," answered the other. "Those are my initials; that is my watch. I lost it eight years ago. How did you get it, and how long have you had it?"

"I stole it," was the reply. "What made you bring it back now?" "I was converted last night," was the answer, "and I have brought it back first thing this morning. If you had been up, I would have brought it last night."

 So, what about us? To what degree do our lives present God’s genuine lifestyle to others? When we were converted unto Christ, how much did we change our heart attitudes and how much did we devote ourselves to God practically? Was our conversion a mental one, or done with our whole being?

 Today, God has placed before us life and death. One brings encouragement, truth, and the experience of the Holy Spirit to people; the other brings temporary, meaningless, and sometimes even confusion or darkness. God is calling us to be a life-giving people through our words, expressions, and our heart attitudes, because we worship the God of Life, who invited us to Life through Jesus the Savior. Therefore, let us be daily bringers of life, that which comes from living a God-pleasing life.

 Choosing between life and death is a daily decision.

1. In Armenian, the expression “to turn back” is often used for repentance or even the conversion experience. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)