Decisions

Intro: In the early morning hours of Tuesday, January 14, 2003, Dwayne Lewis Goodrich (a football player for the Dallas Cowboys) had some decisions to make. Sadly, he made some wrong decisions. He made the decision to go to a topless nightclub arriving there about 12:25 a.m. and leaving about 2:00 a.m.—poor decision to go there. He made the decision to get into his car and begin driving at speeds estimated to be over 100 mph—another poor decision. Goodrich comes upon an accident and has the decision to slam on the brakes or to swerve through the wreckage: he made the decision to swerve through the wreckage—poor decision. There were three men who were trying to pull another man out of a burning car. Goodrich hit the three men killing two of them. He then faced the decision of stopping or leaving the scene: he decided to leave—again a poor decision.

When Goodrich made the decision to go to that nightclub, he did not intend to kill anyone. When he left and drove with excess speed, he did not intend to kill anyone. When he decided to swerve instead of trying to stop, he did not intend to kill anyone. Yet, he did! Why? Because of the poor decisions he made. He now will have to live with those decisions.

We face choices every day of our life. The decisions we make determine what we are and determine our life. Let us look at some of the decisions we must make.

I. Some Biblical Examples.
   A. Adam and Eve (Gen. 3)
   B. Noah to live righteous and build the ark (Gen. 6-7).
   C. Joshua called upon Israel to choose (Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
   D. Every situation in the Bible is an example of a decision being made.

II. Our Friends.
   A. 1 Cor. 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” while the ASV has: “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.”
   B. You can choose to have friends that will tear you down and pull you away from God, or those who will build you up.

III. Where We Live
   A. Abraham offered Lot the right to choose where to live.
      1. Gen. 13:9 “Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”
      2. Lot chose the plain of Sodom.
         a. 2 Pet. 2:7-8 “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)”
         b. He lost his wife, some of his children, and his happiness.
   B. You can choose to move.
      1. Where there is not a congregation of the Lord’s people or where it is unscriptural
      2. Where there is a strong congregation.
   C. Why should our decision be based upon our job, instead of God.
IV. HOW MUCH WE GIVE.
A. God commands how we are to give.
   1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   2. 2 Cor. 8:7 “Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”
   3. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
B. Old Testament Example:
   1. The Jews were to give a tenth.
   2. Mat. 5:20 “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

V. WHO WE MARRY.
A. A Christian should marry a Christian.
   1. 2 Cor. 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
   2. Why would a Christian wish to join himself with someone who does not have the same aim and desire as himself?
B. Sometimes a Christian can convert a non-Christian mate, but more often than not the Christian falls away.

VI. THE JOB WE TAKE.
A. Will we take a job that will hinder our living a moral life (will we be expected to cheat, lie, steal, etc.)?
B. Will we take a job that will hinder our attendance to worshiping God?

VII. LIVING A MORAL LIFE.
A. We can decide to add the Christian graces to our lives or not; 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”
B. We make the decision to live according to the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:19-23 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

VIII. BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.
A. Peter encourage those on Pentecost to become Christians; Acts 2:40 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
B. You make the decision to obey the Gospel or not.

IX. TEACHING OTHERS HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.
A. We know Christ gave us the great commission; to take the gospel into the world.
B. You make the decision when you talk to someone to talk to the about their soul or some trivial matter.

Conclusion: There is another football player who made some bad decisions. In October 1998, Leonard Little, a linebacker for St. Louis, made a bad decision to drink alcohol and then drive after celebrating his 24th birthday. He ran a red light in downtown St. Louis running into a car driven by Susan Gutweiler (a 24 year-old married mother) killing her. In 2000 Little made this statement about his poor decision that fateful night: “I think about it all the time. I mean every day I wake up in the morning I think about it. It’s always in the back of my mind no matter if you’re at the Super Bowl or anything bigger than that. It’s always there and I always think about it.” He made a bad decision and will live with the memory of that decision for his entire life—it will never go away. We are faced with decision every day that will not only affect our life but affects where we will spend eternity. Make sure that you make those decisions that you will not regret, but that will lead to an eternity with God.

What if you were Susan Gutweiler or one of the two men who were run down and your life snuffed out. Based upon the decisions you have made in your life, where would you spend eternity?