

INTRODUCTION

This TANGLED WORLD a book by Roger L. Shinn points out how all persons make decisions. Two ways are involved in every decision. They are:

1. Some people make decisions because they have to.
 1. A situation requires a choice, and people respond.
 2. Joshua 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 which 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."
 3. The choice whether you will serve the Lord or the gods your fathers served on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell is urgent because: IT MUST BE MADE NOW.
 1. The choice is also urgent because: IT IS FOR ETERNITY.
 4. In time of change when past (religious) convictions and ideals are challenged we must make a decision.
 1. Will I give up the Amorite's gods and serve the Living God?
 2. Will I give up my own way and accept God's Way?
2. Some people make decisions because they want to.
 1. The end of his decision is what he wants but he must also make a decision about the method by which he may obtain the goal, the end of that which he wants.
 1. Such decisions are especially hard to make when such decisions involve giving up old habits and religious traditions now found useless and worthless in light of newly discovered Biblical Truth.

SOME THINGS YOU MUST REALIZE AND FACE UP TO

1. You are faced with the fact of the EXTREME BREVITY of human life.
 1. James 4:14, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."
 2. Life is made up of those days during which time one hovers between the cradle and the grave...The day of his birth to the place of his grave.
 3. Coming forth as delicate and tender as the flower that so soon "fadeth and falleth away" man will soon be faced with the fact that he is no more durable than a handful of beautifully painted dust. Eccle. 12:7
 4. Facing up up to the quick transition of life:
 1. By experience we know that the few days that God allots to us to live:
 1. Refuse to linger, but hurry on.
 2. They are like the shadow on the dial; never hastening, never resting, but ever moving toward the inevitable. One poet said:

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man hath power to tell just where the
hand will stop
At late or early hour.

2. Nature itself sets forth the sad side of life so Job 14:1,2 teaches.
 1. BREVITY "Man that is born of woman is of a few days." We see the individual passing while the human race continues.
 2. TROUBLE "Full of trouble." Romans 8:22, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."
 3. FRAILITY "Man that is born of Woman" speaks of the frailty of humanity.
 1. Woman is "the weaker vessel" 1 Peter 3:7. Like the good Christian woman, the flower is the most beautiful thing in nature as well as the most fragile: The flower, a type of human life, may be crushed by a careless step, orhipped by an early frost, or cut down by the very sun that drew out its life and painted its loveliness.

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THE DEATH WAIL OF HUMANITY

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4. Man's days are numbered. Job 14:5 1. "Seeing his days are numbered."
2. "The number of his months are with thee."
3. "Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."
5. Job prayed that he might accomplish "the day's work." Job 14:6, "...till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day."
1. Some things man must realize and do if he is to successfully accomplish "the day's work" for God. He must realize that:
1. He is God's servant.
1. Being a servant he is not his own master to do his own will. It is his duty to follow the Master's orders.
2. Two duties sum up the work of the servant. The duties are:
1. To work.
1. He must live for a purpose...idleness is sin.
2. As he works his great business is to do God's will in God's way.
3. The servant is not in the world to do his own will. 2 Tim. 2:5; "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully."
2. As the servant works he must OBEY the rule for work.
1. Jesus learned obedience. Phil. 2:8-11; Heb. 5:8
2. The servant must learn and obey. Phil 2:12
3. God's servant must realize some things:
1. That he must first be a Christian himself.
2. He must be pure in heart in order to live a pure life. Mat. 5:8
3. If he would lead others from sin he must forsake sin himself.
4. If he would be a reformer he must be a reformed man.
5. If he would do good he must first be good.

SPECIAL NOTE:

The greatest success in the world was accomplished by men who were fellow-workers with God. 2 Cor. 6:1-10

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