

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

February 12, 2023

*Sunday Morning:*

**Call to Worship:**

Luke 12:13-15

Barry Cary

**Song Leader:**

Larry Miller

**First Prayer:**

Dennis Blanton

**Presentation/Lord's Table**

Barry Cary

**Servers:**

Walter Culbreth \*\*Austin Miller

**Speaker:**

Johnny Felker

**Prayer & Announcements:**

Ralph Brown

**Usher:**

Dwight Mullett

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*Sunday Evening:*

**Call to Worship:**

Luke 9: 18-22

Austin Miller

**Song Leader:**

Ralph Brown

**First Prayer:**

Larry Miller

**Speaker:**

Johnny Felker

**Lord's Table:**

Walter Culbreth

**Prayer and Announcements:**

Barry Cary

**Usher:**

Dwight Mullett

**Prayer List and Announcements**

**Jeanette Aldridge** continues to do well, mostly staying at home.

**Janett King** is feeling OK physically. She enjoyed a visit with her daughter Sheila on Saturday. Her brother, Earl Pierce, remains under hospice care in his home. Her sister, Brenda Kayson, is currently in a rehabilitation center, as she has been having difficulty walking. She wanted to let us know the Port Royal Church of Christ is holding services at the Rehab Center the 1st Sunday of every month.

**Deborah Grigsby** continues to do well. She was able to visit Mike earlier in the week. He is about the same.

**Fred Duggin** visited a swallowing specialist on Wednesday and she gave him some exercises for his throat. He had another episode of vertigo this week, which he thinks is related to his a-fib. He will have an **MRA** in March. This will give doctors an inside picture of his heart. It is hoped this will help them better understand the issues he is dealing with and treat his a-fib.

**Betty Travis** has been eating better but is very tired.

**Betty Dennis** continues to well, and is hoping to be at services today.

We received word that our former member, **Neal Smith**, is not doing well. Let us keep him in our prayers.

**\*\*Let us continue to Remember in Prayer\*\***

Janett King, Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Keith Barclay (friend of Betty Copley), Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Dalton Gregory, and Esther Carrera, co-worker of Dwight Mullett.

**Birthdays:**

No birthdays this week

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

**Perry Heights church of Christ**  
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*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"  
Heb. 10:24*

February 12, 2023

## The Choices God Makes

Tim Jennings

We are taught early in life how to choose sides. Just chose the strongest, fastest, tallest, smartest, prettiest and trendiest and you can't go wrong. With a smiling face, you'll find your place among the stylish crowd.

But, what if our precious standards of evaluation are wrong? What if the best choices are not the most popular or comfortable? What if success is not found in the path of the beautiful and the bright? What if our method of selection is so flawed it actually leads to our ruin?

The history of human choices is not a good one. The original couple made a choice that had all the indicators of success. They choose a beautiful fruit to be smarter and stronger. How brilliant! But, it was dead wrong. Look around. Our ability to make wise choices isn't much better. There is something deeply flawed with the way we decide things.

However, God doesn't evaluate things like we do. Who would choose David over Saul to be king? God did. Who would choose a life of poverty for the Christ? God did. Who would willingly choose to die on a cross? God did. Clearly, God doesn't make choices the way we do. We would do well to throw away our flawed filters of decision and pay attention to how God chooses.

**A case study: God chose Jacob, not Esau.** God's choice is explained at the birth of these twin boys (Genesis 25:19-26), and later examined by other Biblical writers (Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:11-14; Hebrews 12:15-17). We also learn about God's choice by looking at the families of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 36-50). Genesis sets up the study this way, Genesis 36:1 "This is the account of Esau." Genesis 37:2 "This is the account of Jacob." That similar beginning is followed by a shocking contrast!

**Who God chooses is surprising!** First, the family of Esau is described as large and powerful. They control twenty-seven chiefdoms and have eight kings, who rule the rising power of Edom. They are literally, a royal family. Align yourself with Esau, and you'll never lack food or protection (or so it seems; see Obadiah).

On the other hand, the family of Jacob is described, "This is the account of Jacob.

**"Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,  
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies." Psalm 36: 5**

## Preacher's Pen points

# Making "Better" Choices



*The way to a "better" life is to make "better" choices. Solomon shows us how!*

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W\_\_\_\_\_ is the better choice!

*How much better it is to get wisdom than g\_\_\_\_! and to get understanding is to be chosen above s\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 16:16; see also 8:11, 19; 3:14; 9:10; 15:1)*

*Better is a little with the f\_\_\_\_ of the LORD, than great treasure and turmoil with it. (Proverbs 15:16)*

R\_\_\_\_\_ character is the better choice!

*Better is a little with r\_\_\_\_\_ than great income with injustice. (Proverbs 16:8)*

*What is desirable in a man is his k\_\_\_\_\_, and it is better to be a poor man than a l\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 19:22)*

*Better is the poor who walks in his i\_\_\_\_\_, than he who is crooked though he be rich. (Proverbs 28:6; see also 19:1)*

*It is better to be of a h\_\_\_\_\_ spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. (Proverbs 16:19; see also 12:9; 25:7)*

*He who is s\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_ is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city. (Proverbs 16:32)*

*A good n\_\_\_\_\_ is to be more desired than great riches, f\_\_\_\_\_ is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)*

Loving r\_\_\_\_\_ is the better choice!

*Better is a dish of vegetables where l\_\_\_\_\_ is, than a fattened ox and hatred with it. (Proverbs 15:17; 17:1; 21:9; 25:24)*

*Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed. (Proverbs 27:5; 27:10)*

We all need money to survive; but we need wisdom, righteousness, and loving relationships to really live!

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Joseph, a young man of seventeen was tending the flocks" (Gen. 37:2). What? The hope of Jacob's family is pinned on a boy! A shepherd boy, from a dysfunctional family, surrounded by brothers who hate him.

Now, what family do you want your daughter to marry into? What family do you want to be a part of your church? That's easy, Esau! Yet, the hope of humanity does not rest with the numbers and security of Esau, but in the single, rejected, but faithful son of Jacob.

Take heart! God often chooses to work through unexpected and feeble people (1 Cor. 1:26-31). God's work is not often done among the many and the mighty! It is done among the few and the faithful.

Our value is not tied to how big a church we attend, but to the God we serve. Our future does not depend on the quality of our family tree, but on the newness of our life in Christ. Our hope does not rest on our plans, but on God's providence! We don't have to be many, powerful, smart, or even perfect. God chooses to work through feeble, but faithful people.

**God does not choose to remove us from pain.** Esau's family had so many possessions, they decided to leave the land of Canaan. They seized some land to the east and set up their own nation. On the other hand, Jacob "lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan" (Gen. 37:1). He has no nation, and before long he is nearly starving to death. Remind me, who did God choose?

Then, there is Joseph. The chosen one! Yet, his brothers hate him, toss him in a pit, and sell him into slavery. He is later lied about, thrown in prison, and forgotten for over decade. Could God choose such a path for His people?

Yes! God often chooses the most painful path. Faith is not found on the couch of convenience, but by carrying our cross (Luke 9:23-24). It is fleshly religion that seeks to make comfortable spectators. Discipleship calls for sacrificial service (2 Corinthians 12:15; Philippians 2:17). To make godly choices, we cannot run from the pain. When we sacrifice our time, affection, energy and possessions to know and serve the Lord, it is the best choice we can make.

**Our salvation is the goal of God's choice.** Yes, Esau's family was attractive, but ultimately, they became corrupt, ungodly, murders, who brought death, not life (The Herodian family of the N.T.)

On the other hand, Joseph's pain worked out to the salvation of his family. Joseph summarized the purpose of God's choice in this memorable statement, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20).

The ultimate purpose of God's choice is not to make things comfortable for us, but to save our souls and the souls of people around us (1 Timothy 2:4). So, the fundamental question behind each godly choice is, "Does this lead me closer to God and help me save more people?"

Our "decision maker" is broken! It is too corrupted by external appearances and personal comforts. It is time to ask, "What would God choose?" Then, do that.

"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

(Market Street Messenger, Nov. 24, 2019~via Cedar Park Bulletin, Cedar Park, Texas. )