



The Full Gospel Church

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CHOICES

There are a lot of choices that we make in everyday life. Most of these choices are based upon information which we have acquired over time. For instance, an author uses his acquired knowledge of subject matter, literature, and writing in order to enhance the composition. We make choices everyday on what to have for dinner, what to wear, along with numerous other choices.

There are some choices that are made that are not based on knowledge, but are based on persuasion and deception. Take for instance the teenager who wants to be cool by smoking a cigarette or using drugs. The teenager's knowledge tells him that smoking is bad for him and that he should not do it, but he goes ahead and lights up anyway. This deceptive persuasion can override all of the knowledge acquired that is telling the individual that it would be better not to follow the persuasion of those telling him how cool it is to smoke.

The advertising industry uses every trick in the book to persuade you to purchase a product. There are advertisements on the television for medications where you are not even told what the medication does. The pharmaceutical industry wants you to rush to your doctor and have him prescribe this new drug whatever it does.

There have been written books describing the advertising industry's methods of subliminal suggestion. Some of the titles of these books are, "Subliminal Seduction," and "Media Sex-

ploitation." There a plethora of books on the market on sales techniques and strategies. All of these instruct the reader to sell on the intangible and not on logic. If you can make the client imagine something, then you have the possibility of closing the sale. All of these tactics are based on deception.

For us Christians it is sometimes extremely difficult to determine if we are being deceived or not. We have to continually seek the Lord for guidance. All of the tools used to sell an item are the tools of Satan. He is the master of lies and deception.

John 8:44

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Last week we talked about the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man ended up in hell because of the choices that he made whereas Lazarus went to heaven. The rich man used the tools of Satan to gain his wealth whereas Lazarus was not desirous of the wealth of this world, but was desirous of the wealth that would endure for all eternity.

The rich man made all of his choices based on how it would increase his fortune.

The early Christian Church had a tough time with determining what was the way of the

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Lord. The early Christian Church was deceived by the riches of this world.

James 2:1-26

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 **And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:**

4 **Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?**

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The church had problems with looking on the outward appearance and not upon the spirit. This shows how strong are the deceptions of this world. Satan is the master deceiver! If he can find any means to deceive a Saint of the

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Lord, he will do whatever it takes.

1 Samuel 16:1-7

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Even Samuel had trouble seeing beyond the outward appearance that the world displays. The Christian needs to see like the Lord sees. The Christian needs a spiritual eyesight where he is able to see beyond the outward appearance and look upon a choice as the Lord looks at an option.

When the Lord chose David to be king of Israel, he did not look like a king. Here was a small boy who was not puffed up in himself, but sought the Lord's will in his life.

The Lord wants us to see as he sees. He wants us to be able to choose wisely as he would choose. The choices that we make need to be made with the spiritual insight that the Lord gives us. Seeking the Lord's guidance should be foremost whenever we have a decision that is not an everyday occurrence.

When we buy a car, we should seek the Lord's wisdom. When we see a commercial, we need to ask why do I want to buy the advertised product. We need to continually ask, "Am I being deceived?" The commercial for the motorized wheel chairs that advertise that they are free is really a lie. Somebody has to pay for the product.

When we make choices that we later regret, we need to ask ourselves if we were deceived by our own lusts.

Jude 1:17-21

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Seek the Lord for the choices that you have to make and you will find that you will not be de-

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ceived.

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Sunday School 11:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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