

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY

Intro.

- A. Time ticks away, and many of our good intentions seem to get choked out in the daily hassles of daily obstacles and time-limitations and time-mismanagement.
 1. I'd like to remind myself and you about the importance of daily choices. I'd like for us to think about our daily choices and how they effect us and others now and eternally.
 2. At the end of the lesson, I would like for us to make a resolve to post a reminder in a conspicuous place.
 - a. Let it be something we meditate upon each morning as we sip our morning choice of drink (coffee in my case and in many of yours).
- B. Read **Matt.7:24-27** (NKJV) ---- 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."
 1. The Point: The wise man made the choice to do what Jesus said.
 - a. Your "house" is our life, formed by our habits, character, attitudes, formed by our choice to do or not do what Jesus says.
 2. Yes, it is a choice. Who can truthfully say, " I HAVE to be foolish, there is no way of getting around it"??
 - a. Yes, choices form the habits we find "hard to break". But, good habits can be formed, that can also "be hard to break".
 - b. For example: Good attendance habits.
 3. The "floods" (in Jesus' statement) equals the trials, challenges, difficulties, temptations, situations with which to deal. These beat at our lives to test how solid is our determination to live with Christ.
- C. Another Passage of consideration for contrast is **Psa 1:1-6** which shows that God's truth's never change.
 1. **Psalm 1:1-6** (NKJV) - 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.
 2. This is the Life God Blesses
 - a. What Is Your Life Choice?
 - b. There are only two ways of Life
- D. **As we contrast these to passages - we can see they are saying th very same thing of how we are building for eternity.**
 1. It is either to eternal life and bliss
 2. Or to Eternal life and condemnation.
- E. **TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE: WISE AND FOOLISH ; Godly and Ungodly**
 - A. **Choosing to Listen to the voice of wisdom, or foolishly thinking that old ideas do not fit today's problems.**
 1. **Still TWO roads to take. Matt.7:13-14.** This NEVER changes.
 - a. **Matthew 7:13-14** (NKJV) ---- 13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is

- the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.
2. **Still TWO destinies. Matt.25:46.**
 - a. **Matthew 25:46** (NKJV) - 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
 3. **Still based on your choices. Rom.2:6-11**
 - a. **Romans 2:6-11** (NKJV) - 6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.
- B. In **Psalms 1:1** (NKJV) - 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ---- **the psalmist states 3 fundamental truths of the Godly Choice and Life**
1. **Instructed by God**, not worldly, ungodly, human wisdom.
 2. **Associated with the godly**, not with wicked, immoral sinners.
 3. **Defends righteousness**, doesn’t speak against it or the godly
- C. **A progression of bad choices - which will dissociate ourselves from God’s blessings.**
1. **Brings about sinful actions - Prov 3:6-8; 14:12; Jer 10:23; 1 Cor. 1:18-2:12**
 - a. **Proverbs 3:6-8** (NKJV) - 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.
 - b. **Proverbs 14:12** (NKJV) - 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
 - c. **Jeremiah 10:23** (NKJV) - 23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.
 - d. **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:12** (NKJV) - 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words

of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

2. **Associates us with the wicked** - **Prov 1:10,15; 4:14-19; Eph 4:17-19; 1 Cor 15:33**
 - a. **Proverbs 1:10** (NKJV) - 10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.
 - b. **Proverbs 1:15** (NKJV) - 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;
 - c. **Proverbs 4:14-19** (NKJV) - 14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.
 - d. **Ephesians 4:17-19** (NKJV) - 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
 - e. **1 Corinthians 15:33** (NKJV) - 33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
3. **Results in rebellious attitude** - **2 Pet 2:12; Jude 8,10**
 - a. **2 Peter 2:12** (NKJV) - 12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,
 - b. **Jude 8** (NKJV) - 8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.
 - c. **Jude 10** (NKJV) - 10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.
- D. **But the Blessed Man is He Who Does** - **Psalms 1:2** (NKJV) - 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.
 1. **His pleasure, his desire, that which he counts valuable, is the law of God, His will & His WAY.**
 - a. **Psalms 112:1** (NKJV) - 1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments.
 - b. **Psa 119:47** (NKJV) - 47 And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love.
 - c. **Job 23:12** (NKJV) - 12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.
 - d. **Jer 15:16** (NKJV) - 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.
 - e. **Matt 4:4** (NKJV) - 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
 - f. **Matt 5:6** (NKJV) - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall

- be filled.
- g. **1 Peter 2:2** (NKJV) - 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
 - h. **Psalm 119:11** (NKJV) - 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
2. **God's word is on his mind & in his heart at all times in every situation & area of life.**
 - a. **Psalm 119:15** (NKJV) - 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.
 - b. **Psalm 119:97-104** (NKJV) - 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
- E. So, How can I improve MY ATTITUDE toward God's word?
1. How can I increase MY HUNGER & THIRST for God's word?
 2. How can God's word change MY LIFE that I glorify & honor Him?

II. HOW DOES A LIFE GET SO MESSED UP?

- A. **NOT** because of circumstances; not because of "a bad deal in life".
 1. **Contrast SAUL and DAVID.**
 - a. Began as kings; similar circumstances, but different choices.
 2. **Consider God's law of sowing and reaping. Gal.6:7-8**
 - a. **Galatians 6:7-8** (NKJV) - 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
- B. **Does NOT** have to be like that: **The Blessed Man is Who is - Psalm 1:3** (NKJV) - 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.
 1. **Grounded – secure & stable - John 10:27-29.**
 - a. **John 10:27-29** (NKJV) - 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.
 2. **Nourished – transplanted where nourishment is plentiful - Jn 15:1-10**
 - a. **John 15:1-10** (NKJV) - 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

3. **Fruitful – grows to be productive in the kingdom of God - Col 1:9-14**

a. **Colossians 1:9-14** (NKJV) - 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

4. **Preserved – Even in adverse conditions - Rom 8:28-39**

a. **Romans 8:28-39** (NKJV) - 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. **Prosperous – Life of value & reward - 1 John 5:4-5; 2 Pet 1:5-10**

a. **1 John 5:4-5** (NKJV) - 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

b. **2 Peter 1:5-10** (NKJV) - 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

C. **Colossians 2:6-7** (NKJV) - 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

III. CHOICES HAVE A CUMULATIVE EFFECT.

A. **Decisions tend to snowball over time.**

1. Which cigarette HOOKS one into the habit? 1st?, 2nd?, 3rd? Which?
2. Alcoholic or drug addict? Which drink? At Which point?

¹ *The New King James Version.* Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982

- B. Those young people who chose mates with little or no spiritual priorities.
 - 1. Where are they now?
 - 2. Where are they and their children headed?
 - 3. One small choice, added on to another, and another, until an accumulated habit of life and lifestyle and DESTINY.
 - 4. Very small day-by-day decisions and habits of today seal our patterns of lifestyle and eternal destiny.
- C. Every decision we make gets added to our total character, and it will either make it EASIER or HARDER to do the right thing later on.
 - 1. We are building a character, constructing a self.
 - 2. Either moving toward God or away from Him.
- D. This is seen with the condition of the Ungodly - **Psalm 1:4-5** (NKJV) 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
 - 1. The ungodly are not so - The wicked are unstable, unfruitful, and will perish.
 - 2. But are like the chaff - the debris separated from the grain or seed in threshing - is blown about by the wind. It is that which is worthless, of no value. - **Matthew 3:12** (NKJV) - 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
 - 3. Shall not stand in the judgment - They will not have the ability to withstand or endure the judgment of God – **Matt. 13:41,42; Rev 21:8**
 - a. **Matthew 13:41** (NKJV) - 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,
 - (1) **Matthew 13:42** (NKJV) - 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 - b. **Revelation 21:8** (NKJV) - 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
 - 4. Excluded - will be excluded from the eternal blessings of God’s presence to be enjoyed by the righteous. - **Matthew 25:45,46**
 - a. **Matthew 25:45** (NKJV) - 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’
 - (1) **Matthew 25:46** (NKJV) - 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

IV. EVERY CHOICE MATTERS.

- A. You have never used your mind in such a way that God would consider it insignificant. **Matt.12:36** -"every idle word" counts.
 - 1. **Matthew 12:36** (NKJV) - 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
- B. A choice to read daily (**Acts 17:11**) is a choice.
 - 1. **Acts 17:11** (NKJV) - 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
- C. A choice to pray daily is spiritually, and characteristically significant. **Phil.4:6-7**
 - 1. **Philippians 4:6-7** (NKJV) - 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- D. A choice to look for better ways to help others is significant. A "light" effects another persons’

darkness of soul.

- E. And in such manner the Psalmist says the same thing - **Psalm 1:6** (NKJV) - 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. ---- which is the Reward of your choice
1. **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous**, - Salvation in the day of judgment is equated with being known by the Lord (**Matt. 7:23; 2 Tim 2:19**)
 - a. **Matthew 7:23** (NKJV) - 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'
 - b. **2 Timothy 2:19** (NKJV) - 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
 2. **But the way of the ungodly shall perish** – Their way of life gains them nothing with God - Ultimately this means the lake of fire – (**Matt 16:26; Rev 21:8**).
 - a. **Matthew 16:26** (NKJV) - 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - b. **Revelation 21:8** (NKJV) - 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
 3. We Are Free To Choose, But We Are Not Free From The Consequences of Our Choices

Concl.

- A. **Jer 17:5-8** (NKJV) - 5 Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. 7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.
1. **Deut 30:19** - I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;
- B. We are building for eternity each day.
1. But WHICH eternity are we building for?
 - a. Eternal LIFE? or eternal punishment?
 - (1) All have sinned - **Rom 3:23**
 - (2) All who do not know God & do not obey the gospel - **2 Thess. 1:6-10**
 - (3) Eternal separation from God - **Matt 25:46; Rev 21:8**
 - b. The way made possible - **Jn 3:16; 14:6; Rom 5:8,9**
 - (1) **John 3:16** (NKJV) - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 - (2) **John 14:6** (NKJV) - 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - (3) **Romans 5:8** (NKJV) - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - (a) **Romans 5:9** (NKJV) - 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
 - c. The way NOT TOO difficult - **Rom 10:5-17**
 - (1) **Romans 10:5-17** (NKJV) - 5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring

Christ down from above) 7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

d. Hear, believe, confess, repent, be baptized, live for God - **Jn 8:24; Acts 2:38; Rom 12:1,2; Col 3:1,2**

- (1) **John 8:24** (NKJV) - 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
- (2) **Acts 2:38** (NKJV) - 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- (3) **Romans 12:1** (NKJV) - 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
 - (a) **Romans 12:2** (NKJV) - 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- (4) **Colossians 3:1** (NKJV) - 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
 - (a) **Colossians 3:2** (NKJV) - 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

C. What decisions of today can build a solid foundation for tomorrow’s habits?

1. What can you do TODAY that will help build your life for the facing and handling of the storms of life?

D. What seems like small steps can count if it is in the right direction.

1. Do you CHOOSE the right direction?
2. Do you choose to serve the Lord?

¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982