

Choices

A long-time husband was asked how he and his wife had stayed so happily married for all of those years. He replied that it was easy, explaining that they reached an agreement early in their marriage about who would make the decisions in their home. They concluded that he would make all the “big” ones- like whether or not the U.S. should invade Russia, and she would decide everything else!

Life is full of choices- too many at times. But the really “big” choices are much more limited with regard to selections than the smaller ones. In fact, the biggest choice of all only has two options from which to pick: We either believe God exists, or we don’t- everything else kind of follows after this one.

Consider the beginning of the world, for instance. Either we believe that matter is eternal and created the mind of man- Evolution; or we believe that the Mind (of God) is eternal and created matter- Creation. One believes that dead matter created living minds, and the other believes that a living Mind created all matter. The scientific Law of Biogenesis states that “Life begets life.” The biblical record supports this conclusion, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) On the sixth day of creation, God said, *“Let the earth bring forth living creatures...Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness...And God created man in His own image....male and female He created them.”* (Genesis 1:24-27) Each of us must choose to believe that life came from non-living matter, or that life came from the living God. **All other choices we make in life originate from this one “big” one.**

If we choose to believe that man is the product of evolution, then our world view becomes very much “man-centered.” If man is but the pinnacle product of primordial soup that was energized to life by an unknown cause, then he truly is the “Master” of his own destiny because he’s the top of the heap- the highest evolved creature. In this view, man seeks all of the answers to life’s questions within himself. He also, if this is his choice about origins, will come to believe: that there are no absolute “truths” regarding anything; that everything is therefore subjective to his own determinations; that positive attitudes and personal self-worth are paramount objectives for all humanity; and that secular education is that which allows mankind to overcome all that plagues human existence. These conclusions logically and naturally follow when man chooses to believe that he is the evolutionary product of lifeless eternal matter becoming a finite living being.

Other the other hand, if man chooses to believe that he is the creation of an eternal, living God who imbued him with an immortal soul, then his whole world view is very different, and becomes “God-centered.” Man is, in this perspective, no longer a mere *highly-evolved* animal, but the crown-jewel of all of God’s creation- the only member of it in whom God placed part of His own immortality: **a soul**, Genesis 2:7! God gave man something that would cause him to be able to think and reason on a higher and nobler plane; something that would enable him to comprehend (at least in part) and worship his Creator; and something that would allow him to be able to live beyond the tenure of his earthly existence! This belief, if chosen, also has logical and natural conclusions. If man adopts this view, then he will also come to understand: that he is not the originator of “right” and “wrong,” but that his Creator has the power, by right of creation, to determine such for him (Psalms 15); that his self-worth is directly tied to the value his Creator placed, and places, upon him (Romans 5:8; 2Timothy 2:20-21); that understanding God and His revealed Word is more important than anything man can discover or teach himself (Jeremiah 10:23; John 12:48); and that righteous obedience to God is the answer to life’s plagues and difficulties (Proverbs 11:4-6; 14:34).

Now, do you see how everything else flows logically, naturally, and conclusively from this one “big” choice? Choose wisely my friends- all of this life, and the next, hang in the balance. But there’s more....

Special Note: Bro. Kris Emerson (of Lindale, TX) will be speaking here at the Southside Church of Christ on **“The Life-Changing Power of Personal Choices”** this next Sunday through Wednesday (April 3rd - 6th). We’d love to have you join us for this spiritual feast on God’s Word. We’re located at 602 Henderson Street (just across South Jackson from Subway), and we’ll be meeting at 9:30 and 10:20 Sunday morning, 6:00 Sunday evening, and at 7:00 Monday through Wednesday evenings. (Philip C. Strong; Southside Church of Christ; 602 Henderson St., Jacksonville, TX; online at southsidechurchofchrist.net; email to mrpcstrong@hotmail.com)