

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

June 1, 2008

YOU MAKE THE CALL

"Today's decisions will shape your tomorrow"
Genesis 4:1-7

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ..."How to respond to the 'Y' in the road."

- ❖ **Decisions can make or break!**
- ❖ **Decisions can be momentous!**
- ❖ **Decisions hold the future!**

"The Process of Making Good Decisions"

1. CHESS: THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- God has a wonderful plan for your life.
- A choice isn't a choice without the possibility of a wrong alternative.
- God brings us to a 'Y' in our path where we have to make preliminary decisions that lead to more decisions.

• Cain faces a decision ...

Genesis 4:2b-3 "When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord." NLT

• God uses common, daily components to set up 'crisis' type decisions.

• God confronts Cain ...

Genesis 4:6 "Why are you so angry? Why do you look so dejected?" NLT

• God models how to deal with an angry person ...

Genesis 4:7 "You will be accepted if you **do** what is right. But if you refuse to **do** what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master." NLT

• God isn't concerned with our past, but our present and future.

2. DECISIONS: PORTALS TO OPPORTUNITIES

- Have you ever faced a great opportunity that didn't include a decision?
- God had positioned Cain to win.

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of June 1, 2008

- Instead, Cain chose to follow his mind, emotions and stubborn self-will and murdered his brother thinking that would relieve his pain.

- Cain totally wasted his golden opportunity by making one very sad decision!

3. YOU SHAPE YOUR FUTURE BY YOUR DECISIONS

- Don't discount or misread the difficult problem you are facing today.

- Perhaps the awareness of your stagnated spiritual passion for God is like Cain's situation.

Always remember: God is far more interested in developing your character and your future blessed life than He is in your present comfort level.

- How you respond to what God's Word says ~ is what He's closely watching.

Proverbs 13:20 “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Luke 11:4 “... forgive everyone who sins against [you].”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

- God sets opportunities to make any variety of significant decisions in front of you every day.

Jeremiah 17:10 “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind. Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.” NASB

Genesis 4:7 “Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” NLT

How are you going to handle the 'Y' in front of you?

Key thoughts to consider:

- God is not as interested in your past as He is in how you respond to the 'Y' in the road in front of you today.
- Today's decision will shape your tomorrow.
- Humble yourself and ask God to help you make that right choice.
- Humbly bow at His altar and admit you need His help and surrender your will to His.
- God always has the best plan for you.

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week's message? Why?

TODAY'S FOCUS

1. What are some of the most difficult decisions that we are forced to make in the world in which we live? Name the most difficult decision you have ever made. [One that you would feel comfortable sharing with others.] What made it so difficult, and how did you feel after it was made?
2. What are some of the decision-making processes that you use when faced with a 'Y' in your road? [Ex: What process do you use in making an investment ... such as a car, a house, stocks, new job, move to a new town, etc.]

GETTING THE POINT

1. “*A choice isn't a choice without the possibility of a wrong alternative.*” This quote came from the sermon notes ~ what do you see as the focus of this quote? How do you relate this to any of the choices you have had to make in life?
2. Read Mark 2:1-5. What kind of decisions did the men who carried the paralytic have to make? What risk did they take? God has set opportunities to make all sorts of great decisions in front of us everyday. What principles can we learn, and how can we apply them from this story of the four mat carriers? [Proverbs 23:7; Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:24]
3. Read the story of Peter walking on the water. [Matthew 14:24-32] What lessons can we learn from this story about shaping our future by our decisions? How do today's decisions shape your tomorrow?

How did Peter expand his spiritual comfort zone? What kind of decision did he have to make? What do you think his decision-making process could have been? What keeps us from getting out of the boat in everyday life? [Philippians 3:7-8, 13-14]

A LOOK INSIDE

What decisions cause people's spiritual passion for God to stagnate? Name some ways better choices can be made to promote increased passion for God and His ways. [Exodus 19:19; 20:18-21; 35:21; Proverbs 13:20; Luke 11:4]