

CHAPTER

1

# decision



Christian Foundation Series  
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# 1

# decision

## Decisions, decisions . . .

We make hundreds of them in a day. Hit the snooze button, or not? Cereal, or toast? Bus or Car? Which route? Which email first? Do I return this call now, or later? Which café for lunch break? Answer back, or bite my tongue? Tonight is movie night or do I feel like going out with friends? Stay up, or go to bed? What should I do tomorrow?

So many decisions. Most of them are probably incidental, but some are more important; some have implications that will be outlast the next five minutes, five days, or even

five years of your life. Occasionally, we make a decision that's so important that it's the difference between life and death. And very rarely, if we're fortunate enough, do we have the opportunity to make one decision that could define everything about us for the rest of our life, and even the rest of eternity?

## One decision.

The most important decision of all.

Is there really one decision that is THAT important?

**Yes.**

The Bible states that there is a:

- Decision that can determine your eternal destination.
- Decision that can finally deal with our sense of guilt and shame.
- Decision that can restore a genuine relationship with God.
- Decision that can truly awaken our spiritual potential.

## **So what is this one decision?**

Well, before we answer that, we need to look at some of the decisions that we've made up until this point. You see, before you and I were even born, things were in a mess. A decision was made by mankind's original couple, Adam and Eve, that has had implications for every human being since. That implication is called sin. Sin is basically our life's offences before a holy God. We were born into it; it's interwoven into our spiritual DNA, and its influence over us is undeniable.

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*  
*Romans 5:12 (NLT)*

This original sinful decision was made for us, but our subsequent sinful decisions haven't helped matters.

Now, we hate to bring this up, because we really like you and we want God's best for you, but it's important that you know the consequences of your decisions. Every time you've acted selfishly, betrayed somebody's trust, put something in your life before God, been involved in sexual immorality, gossiped, cheated, dishonoured your parents, sworn, hated, lusted, lied or envied and things like this, you have sinned. It's OK to admit it, because you're in good company. We're all guilty of offending God with our decisions.

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

*Romans 3:23 (NLT)*

So, this lands us in a precarious situation because our sin is serious, and it has a price-tag. And that price tag, or wage, is . . . well, read it for yourself:

*For the wages of sin is DEATH . . .*

*Romans 6:23a*

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**Death: Separation from God.  
Feeling dead on the inside.**



And if we don't find a way out . . . this death will last for all of eternity.

The normal reaction at this point is to get nervous and to try to do something about it. We commit to being a better person; to doing something charitable or religious, to saying sorry to people, to punishing ourselves, but none of that fixes our sin predicament. No amount of work we do can get us back to God. The divide, as you can see in this illustration, cannot be fixed by our efforts, no matter how sincere.

## **Our Problem: Sin & Death**



**We need intervention.  
We need help.  
We need a Savior.**

## **We need Jesus.**

Jesus Christ, God's Son, was perfect in every way. He represented God flawlessly because He IS God. And He represented us perfectly because He became human as well. I know that's hard for us to wrap our minds around, but it's true.

Jesus was human in every way that we are.

**But unlike us . . . he has never sinned.**

This makes him the ultimate priest, or go-between, for us and God.

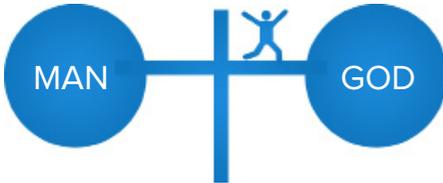
**This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.**

**Romans 5:12**

So when Jesus died on the cross around 2000 years ago, what he was doing was taking the consequence of our sin.

Remember? Death. Our rightful punishment for every sinful decision we've ever made landed squarely on Christ's bloodied body. Every sinful thought, every sinful action, every sinful decision we have made or ever will make was dealt with that day on the cross. And gloriously, after dying for us, Jesus was raised back to life, three days later, by God, his Father in incomparable victory.

## **Our Answer: Jesus Sacrifice**



### **So God made a decision:**

To send his one and only Son to rescue us.

### **Jesus made a decision:**

To sacrifice himself and take on our sin and its deadly consequence.

Which leads us to our one decision. The one thing that we can do in response to this. The one and only decision that God wants from us now. And that is...

To believe in Jesus.

**Too simple?** Absolutely.

**A ridiculously good deal for us?** You bet.

**Insufficient?** Not at all.

When you simply make this one decision, to believe in Jesus, it means that you receive God's free gift of forgiveness for all of your sins and your right-standing with God, or 'righteousness,' is restored.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. . .  
Romans 6:22

## One decision

### **That's all you have to make.**

When you're ready here's a prayer to get you started:

God, today I make one decision, the most important decision I'll ever make.

I choose to believe in Jesus Christ, God's son and by doing so I believe my sins are forgiven.

I turn from my sins, mistakes and the way that I have offended you. I thank you God, that Jesus took my full punishment of death for me.

I believe in Jesus. Which means I'm now a Christian. Where there was death, there is now life. Help me to live your way.

Amen.



TO UNMISTAKABLY  
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AND FOR **GOD**



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# what's next

