

## WINNERS, LOSERS AND CHOICES

This study is about **winners** and losers—and making the right **choices** in life. From the cradle to the grave humans are faced with challenges and how they handle them determines their happiness and fulfillment during their existence on earth; and ultimately their destiny beyond the grave. Jesus is the past, present and future **winner**. Satan is the first, present and future **loser**—as well as the cause of all human sin, disobedience and rebellion against God and His kingdom. He is the power behind all human activity that is not in line with God's nature and kingdom principles. Presently Satan is the prince and power of the air (**Ephesians 6:10—12**) and the believer's adversary (**1 Peter 5:8**), but his power is limited and his days are numbered. These meditations give you the details, with Bible references, and hopefully answer many of your questions. They will also prepare you for a victorious life that fulfills **your divine purpose**.

We will discuss human life and where it came from; and life's purpose and how it began and how it will end. We will discuss the world and universe in which we live—with irrefutable facts proving creationism—and that God exists today. The Bible God is a divine, omnipotent Spirit with creative power, a divine plan for humanity, and a great love for His created beings. This discussion is about the **choices** each person makes and the consequences of making the right or wrong decisions; it is about how we handle the challenges in life and the spiritual powers available to help us do what we should; it is about our ultimate destiny and whether we spend it in heaven or hell. Those who submit to the lordship of Jesus will be ultimate **winners** and spend eternity in heaven. Those who don't are automatically **losers** and will spend eternity in hell.

It is important to realize that you had nothing to do about entering this world as a baby, and you have no power to avoid death; but you have everything to do about making **moral choices**, and learning how to please the God who created and sustains your life. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on the pathway of life, you have a divine purpose backed by divine promises. Everything you need to know to live with God's love and favor is found in the **Christian Bible**, which explains the origin and purpose of life. It lays out moral code that will sustain civilization and qualify people for heaven—where there will no longer be rebellion, disobedience, hate, murder, debauchery, etc. **Because death is inevitable** the wise will read the Bible and prepare for life after death.

We individually determine our eternal destiny by the **choices** we make, based upon obeying God's will and purpose, and accepting the reality that Jesus redeemed mankind from the penalty of sin. He is the only doorway to heaven but we must submit our lives to His Lordship. This is a life transforming **choice** that will determine our eternal destiny; so take the message seriously and act accordingly.

Through the centuries people have realized that babes and children don't fully understand the difference between right and wrong; therefore the laws in most nations don't hold young people as accountable as adults (the age may vary) and legal punishment is applied accordingly. When I was learning to drive an adult rode with me because I lacked experience and needed time at the wheel to become fully aware of my circumstances and pending danger; as well as how to make adjustments in speed, steering, stopping and use of the many gadgets in the process. The adult could advise, caution and instruct me. But when I was old enough to have a legal driving license I was permitted to drive without an adult; and then I was responsible for damage caused by an accident.

Christians have considered 12 years to be a sort of age of accountability, and train young people in the Bible basics. Through the teens more moral training is given to prepare them for accepting adulthood. When High School is finished graduates are expected to be involved in decisions regarding what to do next; whether to go to college or learn a trade. Dating and marriage becomes a matter for consideration but getting a job, saving money and being able to provide for a family should precede marriage. While it is true that children and teens need to make **choices**; thereafter choice-making becomes weightier. Spiritual issues also enter the decision making picture because **God has unchanging Bible standards**.

Let me illustrate how **choices** determine our life style, and consequently where we will spend eternity. A prominent atheist of the nineteenth century boasted and debated with theologians. He argued that there was no God and no hell, and he lived his life doing what he wanted to do, totally ignoring the possibility of there being a God and eternal judgement—**bad choices**. In his dying moments he began to feel the torments of hell and tearfully cried out with despair that he had been wrong—but it was too late and he left this life screaming in anguish and pain. He was a tragic **loser**. In stark contrast one man worthy of death was on the cross next to Jesus. What that despicable man heard and saw of the trumped up charges against Jesus, and His physical suffering before and on the cross, something within him recognized the deity of Jesus and he dared to ask for entrance into heaven—**good choice**. In mercy Jesus granted his request, and although he lived his life as a **loser**—he ultimately **died a winner!**

The Bible is the only reliable record of humanity's beginning. It is God's inspired Word and as you read and learn you will experience His divine power touching and dwelling in your life. God will answer your prayers, and the Holy Spirit will prompt your thoughts and caution you when you face temptations or bad decisions. Then you will know by personal experience that there is a creator God; and therefore you can believe that He designed and created the earth and universe and all forms of life, including humanity and You.

I believe in God because He has interacted in my life. He arranged for me to know about events that were stepping stones to my education and calling in life. I heard His silent voice when driving past a church saying “*stop and go back!*” The third time He spoke I was afraid not to obey—and it led to missionary training and a 53 year ministry that took me across the U.S. and to dozens of third-world countries. A breeze turned the pages of my Bible to a passage that was a key to understanding problems in Africa. While facing staggering decisions I would pray and sing and again God would touch me and I soon thought of the answers. God prompted me to buy a house, to sell another house and give the equity for mission support—and to speak and have faith to believe God would settle a financial matter within seven days—and it happened on the seventh day. There are other examples but these are sufficient for me to tell you that I know from experience that **God is alive today and that the Bible is both a living book and a life—giving book.**

The Bible tells us that what can be known of God and creation can be seen in the earth and heavens, for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen by the things that are made, so no one can ever have an excuse that they didn't know (**Romans 1:18—21**). We have discussed the unseen powers behind winners (**Jesus**) and losers (**Satan**), and the spiritual principles that can guarantee eternal life throughout eternity. We will discuss more of the signs in the heavens and earth, as well as the many factors concerning planet earth that make it suitable for the forms of life found here—which defy evolution and prove intelligent design in creation. Settle it in your heart—evolution is a fraud, the Christian God created everything! Therefore your **choice** to submit to His Lordship is the wisest and best **choice** you can make to have a fulfilling life on earth, as well as the assurance of spending eternity in heaven.

There will be other meditations to help you make the right **choices** and develop the faith to trust the Lord on your pathway. Review these first twelve meditations, and future ones. Set a daily time for Bible reading and prayer, and get involved in a Bible-believing church that has local outreach ministries as well as a heart for missions. Along the way God will move in your heart to teach, guide and anoint you for the work He wants you to do. **Choices**—they are so important, and they determine whether you will be a **winner** or a **loser** in life. There is a place just for you, **Mighty Man**, to serve in God's kingdom on earth. To find it—pursue God with all of your heart! And remember **Proverbs 16:9**: “*A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps*”.

You have finished series 2 and should be learning how to defeat the devil. Good for you because **doing** what you learn is critical to winning these battles on the highway of life. Take time to review Series 1 and 2 before starting series 3. Watch for the next series to be available on this web site—all designed to keep you on the right pathway as you become that **Mighty Man** God saw while you were still in your mother's womb.