

Things Impossible to Choose

Joshua 24:14-15

Introduction: God has given everyone the ability to make choices. However, there are a lot of things in which we have no choice. We did not choose to be born. We did not choose our parents. We did not choose our race nor did we choose the country in which we were born. For that matter, we do not even get to choose when we will die. In this lesson we will explore a few other things which we are unable to choose.

I. It is impossible to choose to be neutral concerning Christ.

A. Our choice concerning Christ is either for Him or against Him (Matt. 12:30). There is no middle ground.

B. Anyone who does not choose to obey the Lord is actually choosing to serve sin (Rom. 6:16).

C. Pilate was a good example of a person who tried to remain neutral (Matt. 27:22-25).

1. Since Pilate washed his hands of the situation and the Jews took responsibility for Christ's crucifixion, was Pilate truly neutral (Mark 15:15; John 19:12)?

2. Ironically, the crowd understood he could not be neutral.

II. It is impossible to choose the nature of God.

A. Many evil people would rather think the God they serve is somehow different than our Lord as described in the Bible.

1. They would like to think that Christ changed things. However, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8).

2. They argue that a loving God would not punish evil (Rom. 3:5-6).

B. It is arrogant to think we can choose the nature of God that we like and ignore His justice which we might dread (Isa. 55:8-9).

C. Rest assured, the nature of the only God we all serve will punish evil (Heb. 10:30-31).

III. It is impossible to choose the consequences of our sins.

A. I can choose to jump from a plane but I can't choose the consequences that will result. With or without a parachute, I cannot control gravity.

B. The same principle operates with sin. I can choose to violate God's law. With or without forgiveness, I cannot control what results (Gal. 6:7-8).

C. If I sow a seed of corn can I choose the plant that result-to become wheat? If I sow to the lust of the flesh, do I get to choose what disease I might receive or whether or not it might kill me? If I sow the flesh in drink, can I choose to control the sorrow and disappointments it creates (Prov. 23:29-35)?

IV. It is impossible to choose our own terms for forgiveness.

A. In our jurisprudence, does the criminal get to decide the terms of pardon?

B. When God was willing to cure Naaman's leprosy, did Naaman get to decide which river to wash in or how many times he should be immersed (2 Kings 5:10)?

C. God created us and since we sin against Him, only He has the right (authority) to set the terms for forgiveness.

1. God sent His Son to die for our sins. Yet, He tells us not everyone will be saved (Matt. 7:21-23). The author of eternal salvation has made the terms for forgiveness conditional (Heb. 5:9)!

2. Obedience is required (Luke 6:46).

D. His terms are easily found in scriptures.

1. We must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God (John 8:24; Matt. 16:16).

2. We must repent of our sins (Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30-31).

3. We must confess Christ before man (Matt. 10:32-33).

4. We must be baptized (immersed) into His death (Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18).

Conclusion: If we are going to accept His terms for forgiveness, we must forever walk in the light (1 John 1:5-2:2).