

# What Is Your Choice?

by Erlo Stegen

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*The sermon challenges individuals to consciously choose between life and death, emphasizing the eternal consequences of their decisions.*

**Duration:** 34:05

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:15, Deuteronomy 30:19, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 7:21, Matthew 7:24-27

**Topics:** "Faithful Living", "Godly Choices"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on Deuteronomy 30 verse 19, where God presents a choice between life and death, blessing and cursing. The preacher emphasizes the importance of choosing life and following God's instructions. He uses the example of a man named Edwin Thomas who risked his life to save another person, highlighting the significance of selfless actions. The preacher also references Bible verses such as Matthew 7:13-14, where Jesus urges people to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. Overall, the sermon encourages listeners to make wise choices and prioritize their relationship with God.

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## Transcript

Deuteronomy 30, verse 19. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.

The Lord puts before you life and death and says, choose for yourself. I don't know if you have any hindrance and what it is that stops you from listening carefully, whether it's an attitude that stops you. If you bite the hand that feeds you or that helps you, do not cry when you don't have any more help.

God gives instruction and lays before you life and death and says, see, I put it before you, choose. A certain young man overseas by the name of Edwin Thomas had two brothers. He was the shorter of them but with a booming voice.

He was gifted in acting, exceptionally so. His brothers John and Junius were also gifted but not as much as Edwin. When Edwin was just 15 years of age, he was already participating in plays in America and Britain.

He was in Shakespeare, Hamlet, Brutus. He was in New York. He was able to act in various Shakespearean roles, such as Hamlet, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus.

He acted for over 100 days in the role of Hamlet in America and people packed the theatre day after day to come and see him and his brothers acting. His brother John acted the role of Brutus, the one who was the murderer. They were world famous by that time.

That was in the year of 1863. This brother John acted as Brutus, the one who killed Julius Caesar. But as he was acting, Satan was busy influencing him.

God had given him the offer of life or death. One night it was very cold and the United States President attended. This John had hidden behind one box and he had a gun with him.

Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest presidents of America, was sitting in the front. He took his gun and shot Abraham Lincoln in the head. He died.

God had given him the offer of life or death. God had given him the offer of life or death. I am so ashamed of what my brother has done.

I can never perform publicly again. One day, Edwin was at a train station. Edwin's face was world famous.

His portrait had been in pictures and photographs and newspapers around the world. The train station was full of people. The train was whistling and there was a push from the crowd.

Edwin Thomas, his surname being Brutus, was close to the train. The train whistled and it began to chug off. The train whistled and it began to chug off.

Edwin Thomas was standing there while the crowd was pressing from behind. He was very well dressed and he just had a striking appearance because of his clothing. I would love to tell you about the importance of proper clothing.

Edwin, you have to wear proper clothing. If you don't wear proper clothing, you won't be able to perform. The crowd was pressing from behind on the railway platform and he fell in between the platform and the railway track.

The train was about to crush him. Edwin, you have to wear proper clothing. If you don't wear proper clothing, you won't be able to perform.

Another man had fallen and Edwin then put out his leg, risking his life, put out his leg for the man to hold onto and to rescue him just as the train pushed by. The man he had rescued recognised that this was Edwin Thomas. Edwin didn't recognise who this young man was.

After two weeks, Edwin received a letter from a general. He said in this letter, Edwin Thomas, I want to tell you that you have done a heroic job. You have saved somebody of great importance, the son of one of the heroes of the nation.

Who was the son? It was Robert Todd Lincoln, the very son of the assassinated president whom Edwin's brother had assassinated. The whole nation and the world applauded this heroic act, saving the life of the son of the assassinated president. God presents us with life or death.

Edwin chose life, saving the life of the son of the president. His brother John had chosen death, assassinating the president. These boys were born of the same mother.

The one chose life, the one chose death. God looking on. Please don't stand up in the service, we are listening.

For all the praying say, Lord help me, help me till the end of the service. How can one explain this? Two boys born of the same mother, nursed by the same mother, brought up in the same house and with the same language. One chose life, the other death.

So you are presented with the choice without any intimidation. You are not forced into any decision. God doesn't come to you with a spear or a stick, but he says, you choose.

Those who have left already in the buses have chosen. And you too, without fail, you will have made a choice. This Edwin Thomas Booth.

It's Booth, B-O-O-T-H. Edwin took this letter and put it in his pocket, close to his heart. He kept it there till his last day.

Every day of his life, white man. He kept this as a witness for himself, to remind himself and as a comfort that though his brother had assassinated the president of the USA, Abraham Lincoln, yet he had been thanked by this general for saving, unintentionally, not knowing who the young man was, but saving the son of the president. The Bible is full of the same message.

Every page of it presents you with the choice, life and death. And God says, you choose. Many ask why? Many have asked me what makes a nation poor and depraved.

I've said it's the choice they make. If they choose violence, if they choose crime, if they choose immorality, then they get the results of their choosing. You may ask yourself, why do I struggle so? Why am I so lost and isolated? I'm out in the cold.

No, it's the result of your choice. God presents you with your choice, your individual choice of life or death. If you're choosing death, then you die.

If you choose life, then live. From the beginning of the Bible right to the end. Take, for instance, the story of Cain and Abel.

Cain and Abel were born of one father, one mother, and one son. One chose life, the other chose death. Jesus said, don't be surprised for I've come to bring a sword, a sword of division.

In one family, three will be there and two will be against them. Cain and Abel. They played together, they grew up together, Cain and Abel, but one chose life, the other chose to be a murderer.

What do you choose? Look at Abraham and Lot. Relatives. Travelers in Canaan.

Abraham chose to serve God first. Lot chose Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot in choosing Sodom and Gomorrah, God allowed him the freedom of his choice.

God lets you choose. Cain chose Sodom and Gomorrah. God lets him go.

King David chose Saul. King David chose Saul. King Saul.

Look at those two. Both kings. One chose the Lord God first.

The other chose power and authority. He was killed. He was destroyed by the Amalekites.

Peter and Judas. Both disciples of Jesus. Both of them denied him.

One chose to come to the Lord for forgiveness and repentance. The other chose death and he hanged himself. In every age of history, you will find in every age of history that God allows these two things to be simultaneously there.

The choice before people of life and death. And on every page of the Bible, you will find it to be so. And this truth is revealed everywhere.

God allows us to make our own choices. And I wonder if you go and you travel today by bus today or tonight or tomorrow or whenever, what your choice will have been? I wonder, you young people, what have you chosen? But I do know that God will make your choice evident and open and even public in this next half of the year. So it will be evident who you as a young boy or girl have chosen.

Even as you get into the bus, it will become evident who you have chosen. Life or death. And no one explains this truth as well as our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 7, verse 13 and 14, he says, enter by the narrow gate. You see that he doesn't go in with the burden through that entrance there on this wall hanging. Instead he goes free.

The artist should have depicted the burden lying on the floor at his feet. For he had been carrying the burden of sin. But he has passed by the cross and all his burdens of sin have fallen down.

A girl or a boy, whatever their burdens are, have been left at the foot of the cross. Jesus says, choose, for wide is the gate and broad is the way of destruction, but there is also the narrow gate. He says, broad is the gate going to destruction, narrow is the gate to life.

And he says, narrow also is the way to life. You need to step like you are on a tightrope. But the gate and the way of death and destruction is broad and easy, and there are many who go in there by.

But the way into life, that narrow gate, few there are who enter therein. How can we even add to this, for Jesus puts it so clearly. He says, choose.

Will you go with the choice of the majority or will you go with the few who choose the narrow way? Jesus says, you can build your house on the sand or on the rock. Choose what foundation you want. You can choose money as your God or the Lord.

You cannot choose both. What is your choice? You studying at school, what have you chosen for your future? Is it that you are going to run after money or is it God? In Matthew 25 he speaks of the sheep and the goats. Which group do you belong to? And the Lord himself will separate the sheep into eternal life and the goats into eternal destruction.

The goats are the ones who turn their backs on God and go into eternal fire and destruction forever. God gives us the choice, the vote and says, who do you vote for? For life or for death? Choose then my friend. But your choosing will be of eternal consequences.

Your choice is not just momentary, it is not just now in the temporal, it is an eternal choice. You cannot then say later, Lord give me another chance, another choice. So what do you choose? Let us stand to our feet.

Lord Jesus, you have heard what everyone says. You hear each one in the auditorium what they say. Lord, may it be so eternally.

Lord, the one who says, I choose life, I choose Jesus Christ, be with that person right to the end. Amen.

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