

DECISION FOR CHRIST

Luke 9:57-62.

To those of you who are unsaved, I want to make a solemn appeal for immediate decision for Christ. As a lost sinner surrender your life to the claims of Christ as a willing and waiting Saviour.

I. Why You Should Decide.

1. For the sake of Christ.

Christ died for you, and therefore deserves your decision. Think of His sacrifice and shame: of how He stepped out of "the ivory palaces, into a world of wee," and trudged every inch of the blood-red way which led to Calvary in order that you might be saved! W. M. Clow tells of a little girl who was brought into a London Hospital suffering from a most virulent form of diphtheria. It was seen that any hope of saving her life lay in sucking up, by means of a tube, the obstruction in her throat. Although he knew that death was a great probability, Samuel Rubbeth, the physician in charge of the case -- young, with a brilliant future before him -- stooped over the girl, put the tube between his lips, and sucked out the poisonous pus. He paid the penalty. Within a day, symptoms of the fell disease appeared in him; in a week he was dead. This young physician made the willing sacrifice. We feel the nobility of it; we believe that his name should not be forgotten. However, such an example of sacrifice pales into insignificance along-side of that made on Calvary; for there it was the God-man who died for your deliverance. Because of Who He was, what He did, and Who He is, He offers Himself as the worthy claimant to the throne of your heart and life. Yet, you give Him but the doorstep on which He stands and knocks.

2. For the sake of the world.

You can never fulfill the purpose for which you were born, nor reach the zenith of your manhood or womanhood until you give Him back the life you owe. The gospel does not offer you wealth, fame, honor, position; but it does impart grace whereby you can live the life that counts for God in the world.

The world is waiting for your choice. Think of the infinite possibilities imprisoned within your life. There are broken hearts to heal, sin-crushed lives to be lifted, evil forces to fight, millions in darkness waiting for the light, and God needs you.

3. For the sake of loved ones.

Isn't it high time that you cheered the hearts of your saintly mother and godly father with the welcome news of your surrender to Christ? What rejoicing there would be among your saved friends if they knew that you were a Christian.

Is it not time you completed the family circle in grace? They are all in, but you. If you want to take a burden from their hearts, decide for their Lord and Saviour now. Perhaps you have loved ones in glory, with whom you hope some day to be re-united. But remember, if you linger in sin you can never join them -- and when the roll is called up yonder, you will not be there.

"A dear one in heaven thy heart yearns to see,
At the beautiful gate may be watching for thee.
Then list to the note of this solemn refrain,
'Ye must be born again.'"

4. For the sake of your own soul.

Your present and eternal salvation, constitutes the greatest plea of all, for your immediate decision. Think of your need! There is the past with its penalty, guilt, ugly spots, and dark shadows: but the blood of Christ can atone for your past. There is your present, with its defeat, bondage, misery, dissatisfaction and disappointment. Crown Jesus Lord of your life and He will give you victory and peace. Then, there is the future, with its gloom, despair, and final banishment from the presence of God. For the sake of your soul's eternal destiny you should decide for Christ.

II. How You Can Decide.

You know that you ought to be a Christian. There are longings in your heart which can never be satisfied, apart from God. How can you decide?

1. Recognize your lost condition.

All have sinned. Your righteousness is as filthy rags. Many fail to recognize and own their spiritual need. Regard themselves as upright, respectable, and not sinful enough to require salvation. Blind to the fact that it is not their good lives but Christ's death that saves. The Lord can only save one class of people -- those who admit their sinnership, and then own His Lordship.

2. Repent because of your lost condition.

Repentance is a change of mind leading to a change of life. It is heartfelt sorrow for sin.

3. Receive Christ for your lost condition.

Look away from sin and self to the sinless Saviour. You have a heart, a mind, and a will. Christ must be received by each of them before you can be saved.

(1) Mind -- "What think ye of Christ?"

Think of your need, what God meant you to be, your destiny, and Christ's power to save and keep. When a man thinks on his ways, he turns to God, and follows Him.

(2) Heart.

As the mind is the seat of thought, meditation and deliberation, the heart is the source of affection and emotion. Jesus appeals to the heart as well as the mind. "Lovest thou ME?" The trusting soul sings:

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee, all the pleasures of sin I resign."

(3) Will.

Your will is the battlefield on which sin must be dealt with, and your decision made. Many think and feel but do not act, and, therefore, are not saved. The will is the seat of action, decision and performance. Let your mind dwell on Christ, your heart receive and love Him, and your will surrender to Him, and salvation will be yours. Except this be done you cannot be saved.

III. When You Should Decide.

Here and now.

1. If you are not now trusting Christ as your personal Saviour, you are now lost.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
John 3:18.

2. It will never be easier than it is now.

Your mind is exercised, heart touched, will inclined to receive Christ. Responsive to tender pleadings of His Spirit. Every refusal makes it harder to receive. If procrastinate, you deaden power to respond to Saviour's call. Felix sent Paul away.

3. God says -- NOW.
The Devil's word is tomorrow. God's urgent word is now. Procrastination is thief of time, soul, and heaven. Road of by-and-by leads to town of never. Now is the only time of which you may be certain. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow."
4. You will influence someone else to do so.
Others say, "I, too should do that." Decide now and help someone else.
5. This may be your last opportunity.
May be now or never. God gives every sinner a last chance and this may be yours. Death may overtake you. "He that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy." He pleads with you, but if you deliberately shut the door in His face, then there is nothing more that He can do for you.