

The Old-Time Evangelistic News

Evangelist W. Paul Redmond Sr.

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What Are You Doing In Your Seat? (Part 2)

Genesis 19:1; Daniel 2:49

Last month we began looking at The Tragedy of Lot. As we closed out, we began considering The Choice that Lot made. Life is made up of choices. Some are good and some are bad. Some will have long lasting impact while others may never be remembered. However, we never know which will change our life forever. Therefore, every choice we make must be made according to the Word and will of God. Lot probably did not think that his choice of location would end up as it did. He probably thought that the place he chose would have no lasting impact upon himself, let alone his family. But Lot's choice not only affected him, but his family, and has now lasted for thousands of years as a warning to all people of the consequences of choices. Now I realize that our choices will not end up in Scripture to be read about thousands of years from now, but the choices we make will affect others. Romans 14:7 says, "*For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*" You may think that no one notices your life, but someone does. You may try to say that you are not well known, or that no one cares what you do, but you influence more people than you think. None of us live in a vacuum. We do make contact with other people. We do influence them in some way, even though it may be in a small way. You may not be as influential as some people, but your life does affect someone. What you choose to do will affect others. Make sure all of your decisions are right according to the Bible.

As we look at Lot's choice, we may wonder, "Why did he make that choice?" Reading through Genesis 13:10 gives us the answer to that question. The word chose in Genesis 13:11 means "to take a keen look at." In Lot's situation, his decision was not some off-the-cuff, knee-jerk reaction. Perhaps because he did take time to make

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the choice, his decision is even more problematic. He had time to find out what was wrong, but he did not. If he did see something wrong with his choice, he ignored the problems and made the wrong choice anyway. We must be careful with all of our decisions. Sometimes an immediate choice is necessary. When those situations arise, as best as possible, we must base them upon God's Word. We need to be so full of Scripture and of the Holy Ghost that when quick decisions must be made, they will be right and Scriptural. When time is allowed for decisions, they must also be right and Scriptural. Lot had time, based upon the meaning of the word, but he still made a bad choice.

But notice Genesis 13:10. After Abram said that the herds needed to be separated, he gave Lot the first choice of land. "*And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*" As the word chose indicates, Lot looked before he chose. But his eyes only saw what was good to his eyes and his flesh. This is one of the greatest examples in all of Scripture that our eyes will deceive us. It looked good to Lot, and probably a lot of other people, but as we know, and will discuss, it was not good at all. The verse even says that the land was good in the physical sense, equating it to the garden of the LORD and the prosperous land of Egypt. The land looked good, but looking good does mean that it is good. You must be careful about what you look at because something that looks good to the natural eye may not be good. Our senses are limited as to what they tell us. Our senses do not let us know what is right and wrong. They only let us know if something is appealing and satisfying to our flesh. Because our flesh likes the appearance does not mean that it is right. Scripture is the authority of what is right and wrong. Our flesh and our senses are not!

Lot made the choice because it looked good. There is no mention here of his calling upon God or of his asking his uncle Abram to call upon God for him. Lot should have learned from his uncle about

seeking God's direction concerning his decision. Obviously, we know that Abram was not perfect and took Lot with him to Egypt, but that does not excuse Lot. Plus, Abram had followed God on many other occasions, and Lot had seen the altars in Sichem and twice in Bethel, when Abram called upon the Lord. But Lot did not build an altar and seek God's direction. He chose the land because it looked good. We have a greater advantage in our day. We have the completed Word of God which Lot did not have. It will shine as a light to direct us in our lives (Psalm 119:105). But do we allow the Word of God to lead us? We often end up making decisions because "it looks good" or "it feels right," rather than following the Word of God. Our senses and our feelings are not the basis of right and wrong. Our senses and our feelings may lead us to the wrong decision. Friend, do not trust your senses! Do not trust your feelings! Make all of your decisions based upon God's Word.

Something else that we must realize about our eyes is that things are not always as good as they appear to be. Lot literally thought "the grass was greener on the other side," but there was more to Sodom than the green grass. He failed to see the wickedness that was in Sodom because his eyes could only see to the fields. He could not see what was inside the city. Whether that would have changed his mind or not, no one knows. But the thing we must draw from Lot's decision at this point is that our eyes do not see everything. To apply this situation to our day I often give this illustration: the billboards and commercials show a strong and vibrant young man or woman holding and drinking some kind of alcohol. They say and show that they are enjoying a great time. Our physical eyes only see the billboard and commercial and think that is the way to live. But our physical eyes are limited in seeing only what is before us. The billboards and commercials do not show all of the story. They do not show the young people being totally overtaken by the alcohol and driving into another car and killing the occupants of that car. They do not show their minds being destroyed by the alcohol and having to live in a nursing home because their minds are ruined. They do not show the livers of those young people degenerating because cirrhosis

has been instigated by the alcohol that they consumed. The billboards and commercials do not show the brilliant businessman now living on the street because he drank his life away. On and on we could go with drugs and other things that may seemingly look good on the outside but will destroy one's life. Be careful what you look at. Appearances are not all that they seem to be.

But the Bible does give the other side of the picture. Proverbs 23:29-32 describes the full effect of alcohol. It says, "*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?*" Those are terrible things. Who would want them? How do they come? Verse 30 gives the answer. "*They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.*" Then comes the command in verse 31. "*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.*" The command is given to stay away from alcohol and an additional warning is given in verse 32 which says, "*At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*" An earlier warning about the avoidance of alcohol is given in Proverbs 20:1 which says, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*" Obviously, much could be said about these verses, but that is beyond the scope of this message. I mention alcohol as just one example of what the world and the flesh try to picture as something great, when the Bible declares it to be terrible. There are other things that we could mention, but we will stop with this illustration. May we realize that our physical eyes are sometimes deceived and sometimes they see only a part of the picture. The Bible reveals the total truth about everything. We cannot base our decisions on what we see. We must base our decisions on what the Bible says. The Bible is always right. Our eyes may not be.

One other thought that we must bring out about Lot's choice is that the word chose used in Genesis 13:11 always involves a careful, well thought-out choice. I mentioned this earlier in talking about the absence of any record of Lot seeking God's Word on the matter.

Before we move on, I must say a few words about this “careful, well thought-out choice.” Obviously Lot based his decision on the appearance of the land. He spent some time weighing his options about the land. But he still made the wrong choice because he based it upon what he saw, not on God’s Word. Lot thought much about his decision but still made the wrong one. Just because you think through your decision does not mean that you will make the right one. Spending hours, days, or weeks before you decide something does not mean you will choose right. Right decisions come from right sources. The only true source to make decisions from is God’s Word. Lot could have sought after God, and God would have made known his will, but Lot did not look to God. May we not make the same mistake. May we follow God’s Word.

The second idea that we notice in the tragedy of Lot is The Commentary. Some of this we covered to some degree in talking about Lot’s choice, but I want to focus on what God said in His Word about the place that Lot chose. Genesis 13:13 says, “*But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.*” This is God’s comment on how He saw the people of Sodom. Lot should have seen the people of Sodom as God saw them. Either he was blinded by the good land, or he did not care about their wickedness. Either way, he was wrong. He should have avoided the city. We will examine God’s comments in detail next month.