



HAMBURG PIKE
Church of Christ

The Worker

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Choice Matters

We live in the day of multiple choice~. Whether buying a car, cookies, crackers or clothing, Americans daily experience a long menu of choices. Forty years ago I began to notice preachers telling people to go to the "church of your choice," and now choices seem endless in religious and even moral lifestyles. Millions are absolutely sure nobody can be absolutely sure about anything, and they are absolutely sure about that! The result is a radical pluralism that says all choices in religious belief and moral behavior are equally valid, and all roads somehow in the end take us to God no matter how different they are. But it won't wash! As somebody said, it is true that there are two sides to every question, but it is also true there are two sides to a sheet of flypaper, and it makes a big difference to the fly which side he chooses!

Choices matter. Sometimes they matter more than others, but they often result in very significant consequences. According to a Reader's Digest article (7/85, p 173) in 1920 the management of the Boston Red Sox made the bad choice to sell a player named Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. After joining the Yankees, in 10 out of the next 12 seasons the Babe hit more home runs than the entire Red Sox team! Boston did not win a World Series between 1918, when Ruth was on the team, until October, 2004! In 1938 Joe Schuster and Jerry Siegel sold all their rights for a comic book character that they had invented for \$130. The character's name? Superman. In 1955, Sam Phillips sold to RCA Victor Records his exclusive contract with a young singer named Elvis Presley, thus missing out on royalties from sales of more than a billion records!

Choices make a difference. Ask Adam and Eve who, with the juice of forbidden fruit still dripping from their lips, find themselves outside the Garden of Eden and away from fellowship with God. Ask King David after his secret, one night fling with another man's wife turned into a tortured conscience and a lifetime of family strife, dysfunction and grief. Ask the prodigal son who spurned the teaching and guidance of his father and through a series of bad choices ended up living a pigpen existence.

Choices really matter. A single choice to drink or smoke or use other kinds of drugs often begins a downward spiral that ends in addiction and loss that is immeasurable. Marriages and homes and hearts are broken because men and women make bad choices. Young people choose to quit high school and literally pay a price, often for the rest of their lives. People choose to spend money they don't have and use a plastic card to dig a financial hole that burdens their family and proves hard to climb out of.

Sin is always a bad choice (Romans 6:23a; James 1:15). As it regards where we will spend eternity, we actually have but one choice — heaven or hell. Jesus spells it out in Matthew 7:13-14 with words that stagger us if and when they ever really soak into our souls — "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Many choices matter, matter, but the choice Jesus describes matters more than any choice we ever make. What God will choose to do with us in eternity depends directly upon what we choose to do with Him in time. Think about it.

Dan Gulley Smithville church of Christ

Touched by a Human

[Eric Welch](#)

America loves angels, especially the idea of guardian angels. Businesses even capitalize on this love. Capital One has a commercial about an incompetent guardian angel who allows his assignment to get into all sorts of mishaps, except he keeps him from using the wrong credit card. Hollywood gave films like “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “Angels in the Outfield,” and TV shows like “Highway to Heaven.” and “Touched by an Angel.” Sadly, Hollywood has hardly touched a Bible to learn anything about them.

“Angel” derives from the Greek angelos, which means “messenger.” The most common use of the word is refers to spirit beings. God created angels (Neh. 9:6) through Jesus (Heb. 1:2). Being spirits (Heb. 1:14), they have no physical body. Angels are far below God (Heb. 2:6-8) but are above men (2 Peter 2:11). Angels are not like God, limited in power (1 Peter 3:22) and knowledge (Matt. 24:36). Some angels sinned and fell (Jude 6).

Human fascination for angels should only go so far. Because angels are unlike God, they are not objects of worship and must not be worshiped (Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10).

Instead, angels worship and serve God endlessly (Isa. 6; Rev. 7:11). They delivered and confirmed God’s word (Heb. 2:2; Gal. 3:19). Angels would have never deliver a false message, but if they were to do so, they were to be rejected (Gal. 1:6-8). They announced the major events of Jesus’ life (Luke 1:26; 2:9; 24:4-6; Acts 1:11). They served His human needs (Mark 1:13; Luke 22:43). They will accompany Him when He returns (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7).

Angels seem to be more fascinated about us than we are about them (1 Peter 1:10). In fact, they are likely to be more “touched by a human.” How? They are touched with joy when a sinner repents (Luke 15:10). They have helped seekers find the truth (Acts 10:3) and preachers to preach it (Acts 8:26). They serve those who inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14) and perhaps help them escape temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Angels bear their spirits to Paradise (Luke 16:22). Does this, therefore, mean that we have guardian angels? I’ll answer that question next week.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The next Monday Night for the Master group meeting is Monday March 16th at 6:00 pm. Italian is on the menu for our meal.

Would you like to help with VBS? There is a “Giving Tree” in the foyer with items that are needed for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. If you would like to give a donation towards the purchase of these items please see Ashley Smith or Stephanie Welch.

The Elders plan to designate each of the 5th Sundays in 2015 for special contributions. The Elders prayerfully urge your participation in planning to give at least a double gift on these Sundays.

Men and young men of the congregation are encouraged to volunteer for a Wednesday evening devotional message. If you would like to participate, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board. The lessons should be prepared for a length of 3 to 5 minutes. Thank You.

Our Fellowship Group Meetings for March:

- The Stocksdale’s group will meet March 22nd after the morning worship.
- The Smith’s group will meet March 22nd after the evening worship.
- The Tincher’s group will meet March 29th after the morning worship.

Doing Your Best

Many years ago in a textile factory there was a sign on the wall which read: "If your threads get tangled, send for the foreman." One woman who was fairly new was a diligent worker, but her threads got tangled one day. She tried to disentangle them, but her efforts only made matters worse. Finally she gave up and called the foreman. He came and looked for a few moments and then asked: "You have been trying to untangle them yourself, haven't you?" "Yes," she replied. "Why didn't you send for me, according to the instruction?" She shrugged her shoulders and said: "I did my best." With much tact, yet, with great insight, he quietly said: "Remember that doing your best is sending for me."

How often in life have we tried to straighten out our own messes, only to make things worse, and certainly not to solve things? We think that a little more human effort, a bit more human wisdom, and a touch of human ingenuity are the solution. But mankind in general and individuals in particular tend to make the same mistakes over and over again. Bad habits remain in place. Errors are repeated. We may even excuse our conduct by saying: "I did my best." Then God gently, yet firmly, reminds us: "Doing your best is calling for me."

Paul did the best that he could do, but it was not good enough. He mused: "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate....I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do....Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:15-24). But Paul had learned that to call on the name of Jesus was the best he could do and the solution to his problem (Rom. 10:9-13).

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Our Worship" Psalm 95
 Sunday Evening: "Music Matters in the Church"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Clint Smith Jr
 Scripture Nathaniel Welch
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper Matt 26:26-68
 Message Rick Martin
 Attendant Greg Blanton
 Attendant Fin Burton
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

PM Service

Song Leader Matt Johnson
 Bible Reading Leon Stocksdale
 Selection 10
 Prayer John Keaton
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Ernie Marshall
*If you are unable to serve, please
 call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Jerry Casey
 Lord's Supper Ethan Welch
 Offering Robby Stocksdale
 Usher Jerry Montgomery
 Count Offering Hank Tincher
 Assist Count Harold Tincher
Last Sunday
 Contribution Attendance
 \$2,504 73