

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

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Colorful Charleston, South Carolina [2007]

Is your life a story of chance or choice? Yes.

“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”

Proverbs 8:10-11

There’s a slogan we’ve all heard, used by preachers and others, that goes something like this: *“the direction of your life will be determined by the choices you make.”* People nod in agreement because it seems to make a lot of sense. But is it true?

There is no question that our lives have been heavily affected by the choices we have made. That’s obvious. However, the slogan begs the question: how many things have happened in your life that came about *irrespective* of a decision you made?

I took a quick inventory of my life up to time I was hired by the church at Folsom. I made a list of the major events in my life in which I chose the result and those that I didn’t. I decided not to print it because it would be boring but I found it to be a good exercise that you might consider doing for your life. I found that about a third of the major changes in my life were not my choice but many of those things that I *didn’t* choose turned out to be really good things. Of course, before high school, I had no say in most aspects of my life. If you include those, then the percentage of things that happened in my life that I had no control over goes way up.

What’s the point? Ecclesiastes 9:11 is the point:

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor

riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.

Solomon is saying that not everything that happens in our life is logical. We know it all too well: “time and chance” bring joy and sorrow. It took a series of events not under my control for me to meet Christie and even for me to end up here at Folsom. Other events have not been so pleasant. *That’s life.*

It’s safe to say that most of the big events in our life are a result of conscious decisions that we make. But it’s also important, and may be comforting, to realize that not every decision was yours to make — many choices are made for us. I’ve had several kidney stone attacks over the year, one resulted in surgery: *not my choice.* Solomon calls that “time and chance.” Solomon’s “time and chance” is even more profound in the age of Covid-19, isn’t it? How many things can you point to that have happened recently that you had no control over?

So, when you look back on your life, you’ll realize there were lots of things that happened that you did not choose. So the mantra that *“the direction of your life is determined by the choices you make”* is not the story, not by a long shot. There may be negative things that you are dealing with today that are not a result of your decisions. So, don’t beat yourself up over those. In fact, don’t beat yourself up for your past bad choices, either. Just confess them (I John 1:9) and move on.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
Email me at dpaulposey@mac.com or text me at (530) 558-5057