

## The Happy Life?

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by Wayne Goff

Life consists largely of the **choices** we make. Good choices lead to a good life; poor choices lead to a poor life. It sounds simple, but it is profoundly true. Just examine your life for a moment and see if the things that make you truly happy are not the result of good choices, and the things that make you truly sad are the result of bad choices.

Admittedly, life is also a **matter of circumstances**, many of which are beyond our control. You and I did not choose where we were born, to whom we were born, nor the station in life in which we were born. Those things have a tremendous impact on our lives, but we have no control over them.

The happy life of which I refer now is the one that is made up of our own choices. Every young person should consider seriously some profound choices, because they will affect the rest of your life! For example, choosing to be a Christian, choosing a good education and life career, choosing a life-long mate, choosing to have children, and choosing where you live — these are the most important decisions you will ever make, and they will determine whether or not you have a happy life.

We need to be aware of the **power** of choice! Too often we base our decisions on poor, or insufficient information. Too often we are mentally and emotionally immature when we make those choices. This article is written to the wise, and encourages you to make good choices.

Just one example will suffice to prove my point. Abraham's nephew, Lot, chose to live in the well-watered plain of the Jordan River, which would be a very wise choice for a herdsman like himself (Gen. 13:10-11). But this was a bad choice because of the society in which he found himself — Sodom and Gomorrah (vv. 12-13). The Bible says *"the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord."* Eventually, Lot lost his wife and children (except two daughters), when God rained down fire and brimstone upon those cities! The apostle Peter wrote of Lot: *"(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)"* (2 Peter 2:8). Lot thought he made a wise business choice (which he did), but a bad moral choice. His life was forever changed by his choice.

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