

## Devotional

## Vital Choices

January 10, 2021

### Monday

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Job one this week is to memorize the Apostles' Creed. It is below. Read it, repeat it aloud, say it in the car, say it to each other. This is the skeleton of the knowledge of our faith.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Tuesday

Read Matthew 11:25-30

What are the folksy little sayings about God that sound good but aren't in the bible and don't reflect what we believe about God that you hold onto? Are "God helps those who help themselves" and "God won't give you more than you can handle" saying that you hang onto day to day? Get them out of your life! Are there others? Test them against scripture! Type them into a search engine (or ask your pastor) and see if they have any biblical warrant. Lots of things sound nice but aren't true. Continually be seeking after the truth and make sure that truth rests on God's Word and a strong, historical, faithful

interpretation of God's Word. Pray today that you would be continually seeking after the truth and not taken in by convenient answers and positions that always seem to back up what you already believe. God has things to show you and me! We are not finished works.

### Wednesday

Read 1 Peter 1

The truth you need to know about all these choices that we make is that it really comes down to a central choice and it isn't one that you make. It is this: God chose you before you chose God. The Good News Translation gives us 1 Peter 1:2 like this, "You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood. May grace and peace be yours in full measure."

You were chosen by God the Father, made a part of God's holy people – the Church Universal – by God the Holy Spirit, in order that you would obey and serve God the Son, Jesus Christ, by whose sacrifice you have been made pure. You have been chosen by the Triune God! Amidst all of our picking and choosing and thinking we have all kinds of power because of all the choices we can make, the most important choice has been made for you and it has been made by God.

It is vital to know that God chose you before you chose God because if you don't get this you will spend your life being too busy trying to choose or imagine the God you want rather than knowing and serving the true God. So, you have a critical choice today. You can choose to keep trying to pick and choose the God you want or you can choose to respond in faith to the God of scripture who is choosing you and really get to know that God. It's your call.

### Thursday

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

How do you want to commit yourself in the next weeks to knowing and teaching the truth of Jesus Christ and the Triune God? Spend time in prayer asking for guidance.

**Friday** – please read and reflect upon Psalm 103:1-13 and Romans 8:12-18 as we prepare for worship on the Lord's Day this Sunday.