



Be Proactive in Making the Right Choices

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Every day we are presented with hundreds of opportunities to make choices.

We start the day with the choice to get up, or stay in bed. Shortly thereafter, we choose what to eat, what to wear and what to do.

Some of our choices are simple, while others are crucial to our wellbeing. Every good choice sets into motion other opportunities for good things to happen. Bad choices follow the same pattern, but in the opposite direction. Good decisions bring a greater sense of order, while bad decisions bring confusion and destruction.

How will we treat our family members today? What about the new job that's been posted? Should we buy that new camper?

Because we can be pulled in all directions, it's hard to make good choices.

Choices involve priorities. The things important in our lives – values, family, friends and other external factors – all help determine the choices we make.

Which priority is most important?

If our value system is most important, then we need to run our choices through it. Some people use a bracelet with four letters on it to inspire wise decisions.

If family is most important, then family needs to be considered first when making choices. Family meals are a great time for decision-making discussions.

Just like everyday life, choices need to be made at sporting events. How we treat officials, coaches, players and fellow fans are important decisions.

In the movie "Facing the Giants," head coach Grant Taylor was faced with some difficult decisions. He noticed some of the parents were motivated to have him removed as head coach. He had to choose between succumbing or pressing on.

Former Arkansas State basketball coach Dickey Nutt had this to say about the aforementioned scene: "As a coach, you always have that little block of doubt, insecurities, especially when things aren't going well. You hear people talking about you,

you see boosters (parents) getting together. That hurts. On the outside, you have to be up, but on the inside, there's always a block of insecurity, a speck of a lack of confidence. That part of the movie was so real.”

Choices we make reflect our integrity. When we make choices for the wrong reason, people can get hurt.

Taylor is convinced to keep going when a friend asks him if he is waiting for rain, or preparing for rain. In other words, are we hoping for good things to happen, or are we faithfully moving forward helping make good things happen?

Do we sit at games hoping the poor sportsmanship will simply go away, or are we actively involved through the booster club, school office or athletic department helping develop a sportsmanship program?

Whether we sit back and react or are out there being proactive is a choice we must all make.

What choices are you making?