

# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

*Principles That  
Should Govern  
How We Make  
Our Decisions*



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

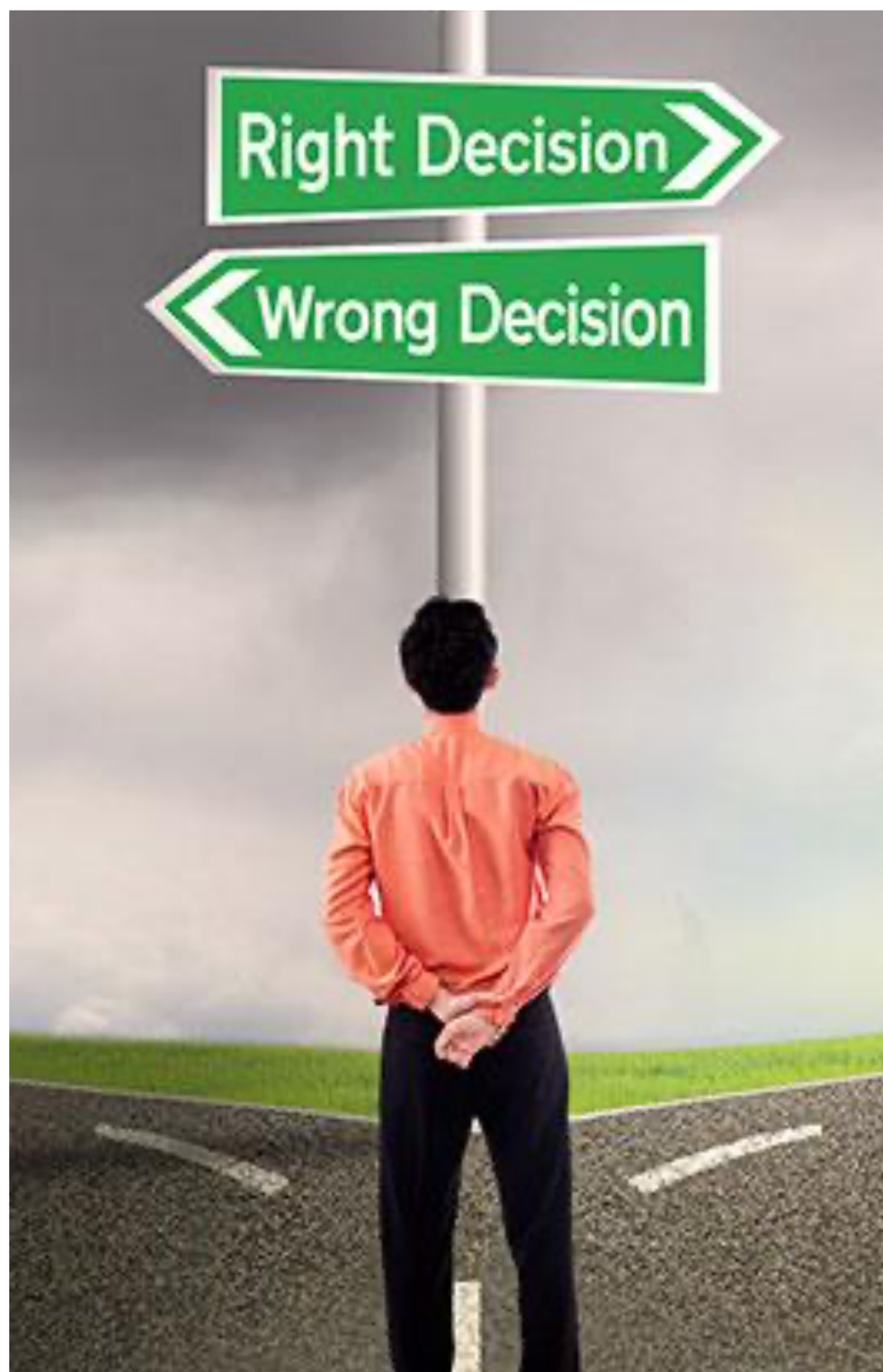
Have we underestimated the harm in living over extended, overly complex and complicated lives?



**TO MANY CHOICES**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD



- Our lives are made of choices –
- Some have little to no bearing on our destiny – (*color of suit / dress, color of shoes / which restaurant for lunch / Mac or PC / Verizon or AT&T, etc...*)
- Many choices have far reaching and eternal consequences ...
  - Which God? / Religion? / Standard?
  - Which church? / Teaching? / Faith?
  - Our values / priorities / goals / focus
  - Our spouse / Career / Location
  - How we spend our time / money / efforts ...



# Deuteronomy 30:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> “For this commandment which I command you today *is* not *too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off. <sup>12</sup> It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>13</sup> Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ <sup>14</sup> But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.



# Deuteronomy 30:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup> in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

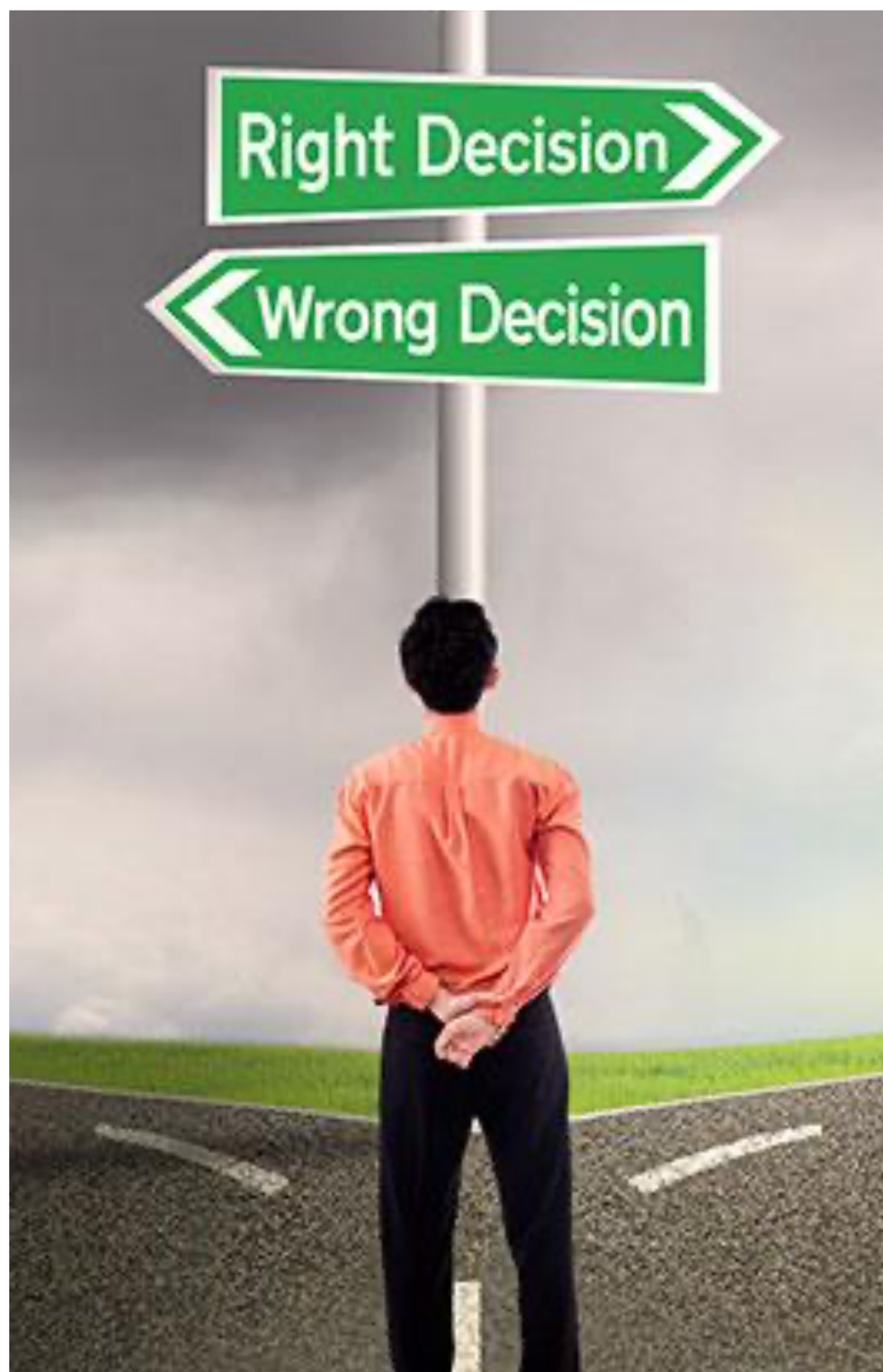


# Deuteronomy 30:11–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”



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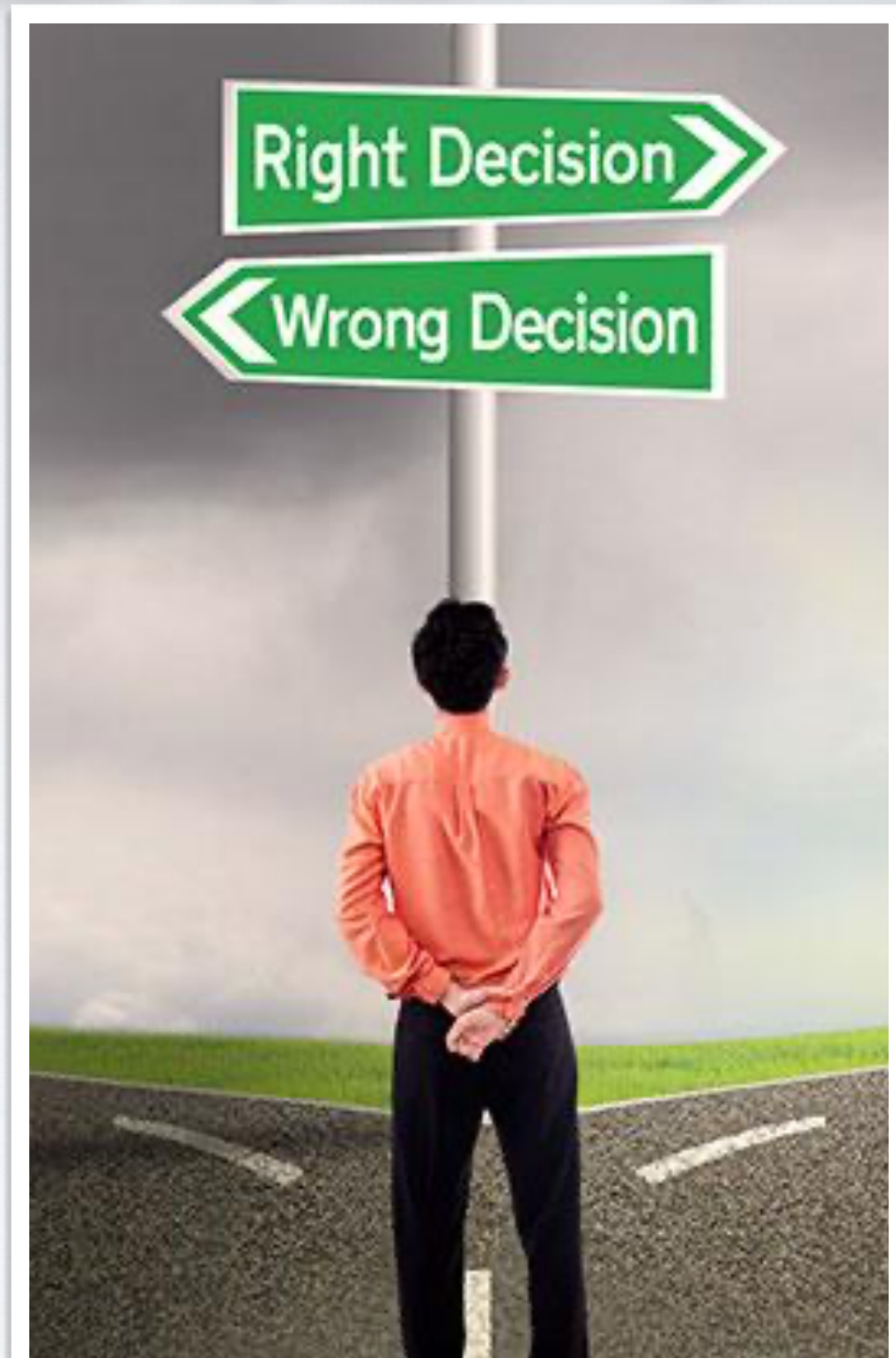
- We can KNOW God's will (30:11-14; Ps. 25:9; Prov. 1:7; John 7:17; Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:15)
- We can DO what God expects of us (30:15,16; Ge. 4:7; Phil. 4:13)
- Satan never stops trying to deceive, discourage, hinder, & destroy us (30:17,18; 1 Pt. 5:8-9; 1 Jn 5:19)
- We are free to choose – but we are not free not to choose (30:19,20; Acts 24:25; 26:28)
- The consequences of our choices are unavoidable (30:17-20; Gal. 6:7-9)



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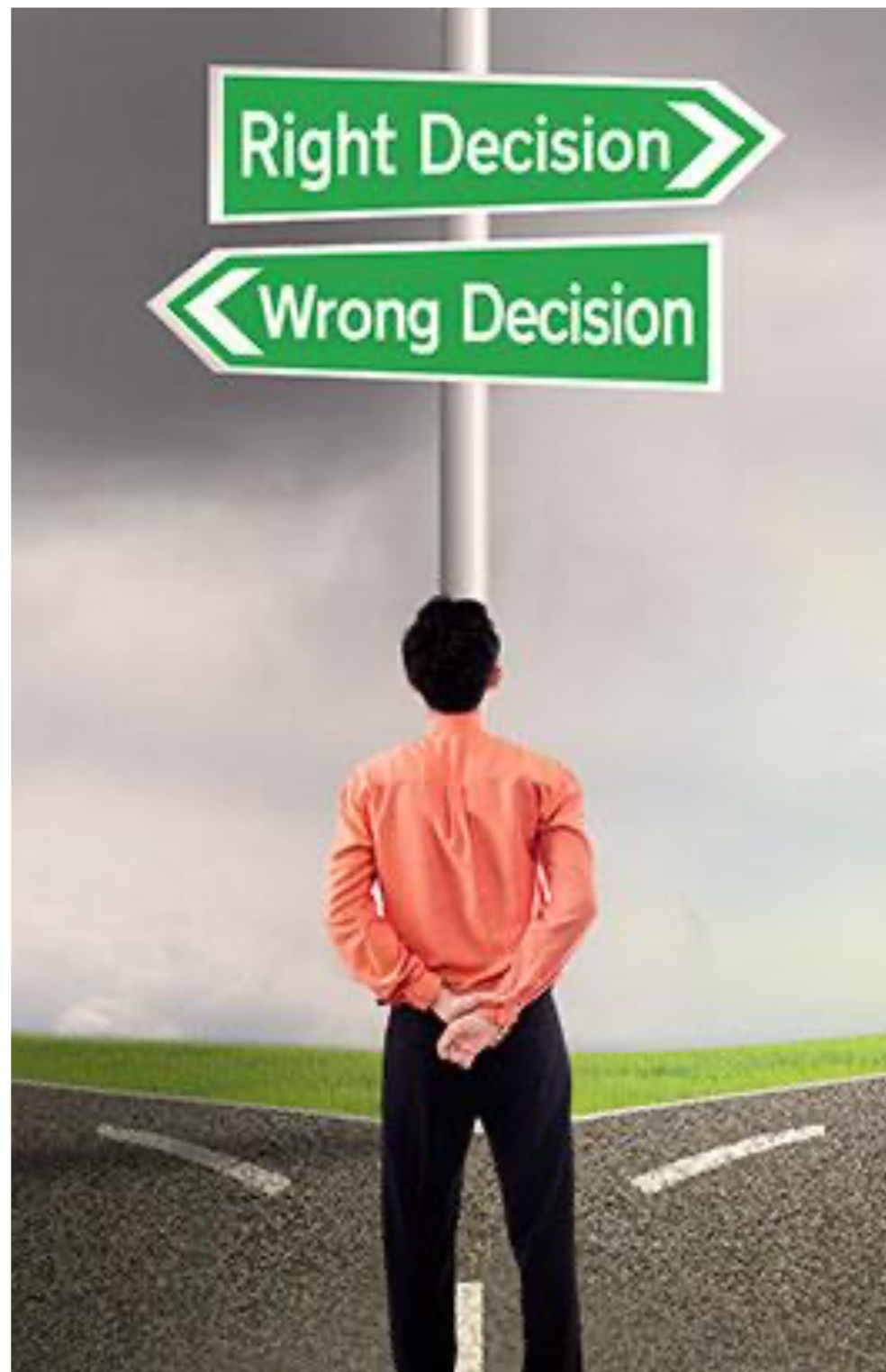
## Lessons From Bad Decisions:

- Eve (Gen. 3:1-6, 13, 16)
- Adam (Gen. 3:6, 12, 17-19)
- Cain (Gen. 4:3-12)
- Lot (13:10-13; 19)
- Abraham (16)
- Moses (Num. 20:7-12)
- David (2 Sam. 11, 12)
- Peter (Mat. 26:33-35, 69-75)
- Felix (Acts 24:25)
- Agrippa (Acts 26:28)





# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD



## **Lessons From Good Decisions:**

- Abel (Heb. 11:4)
- Abraham (Gen. 12;15;17;22)
- Joseph (Gen. 39ff)
- Moses (Heb. 11:24-27)
- Joshua (Jos. 24:15)
- David (1 Sam. 17:32ff; 2 Sam. 12)
- Josiah (2 Chron. 34;35)
- Peter (Mat. 26:75; Acts 4:8-21)
- Paul (Phili 3:7-11)
- 12 in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7)



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

<sup>13</sup> “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. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13–14 [NKJV])

**Any other way**

(Acts 4:12)

**Any other gospel**

(Gal. 1:6-9)

**Any other doctrine**

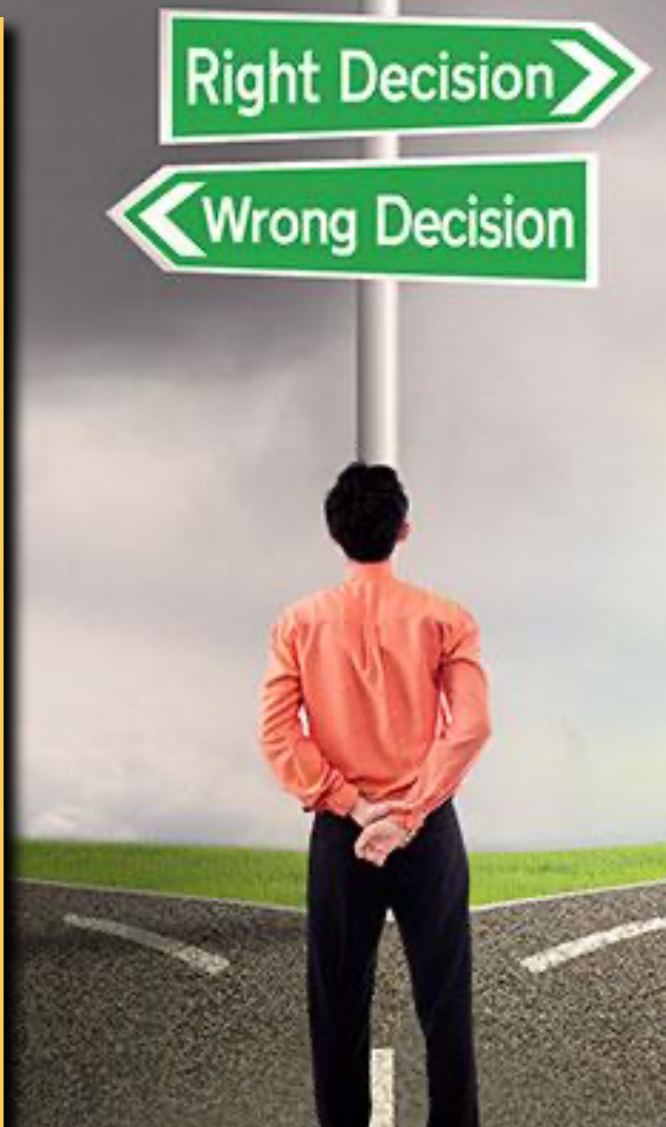
(Heb 13:9)

**Any other body**

(1 Cor. 1:10-12)

**Any other Standard**

(Mt. 15:7-9; 1 Co. 4:6)



**The way of life**

(John 14:6; 8:32)

**The Gospel**

(Gal. 1:6-9; Rom 1:16)

**True Doctrine**

(2 John 9; Acts 2:42)

**The one body**

(Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:5)

**The Standard**

(2 Tim. 3:16; 4:2)

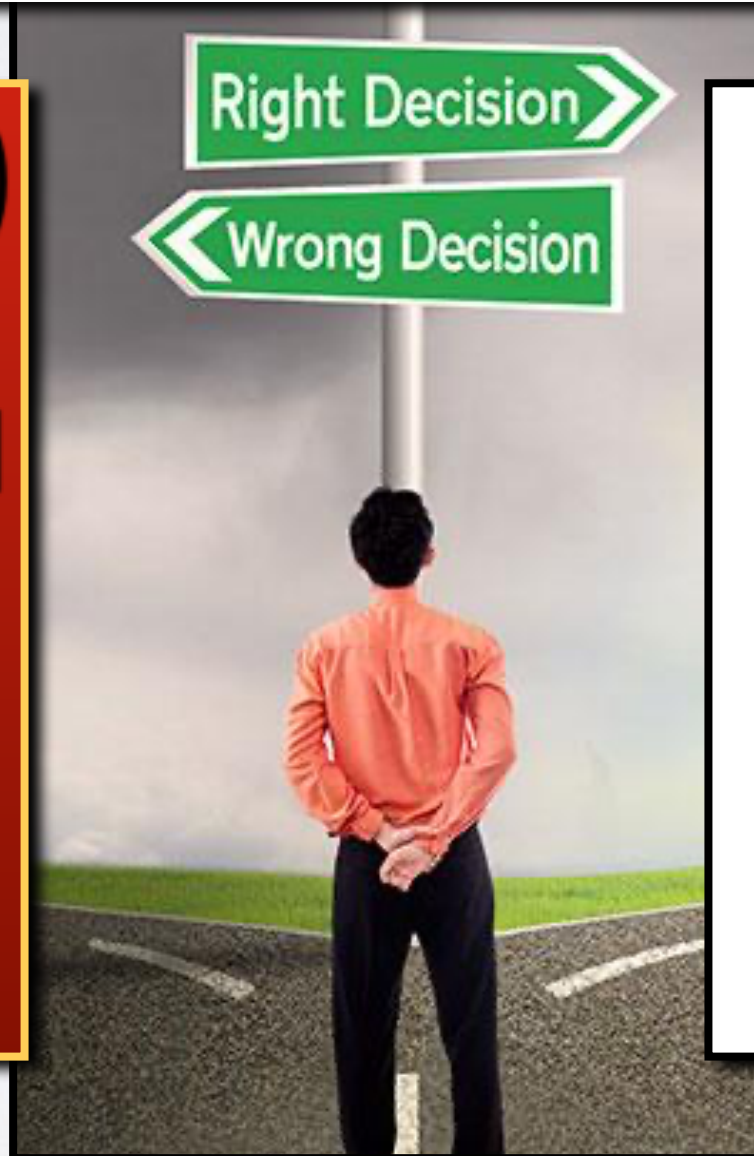


# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

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2 John 9a (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.



2 John 9b (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> ... He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.





Right Decision

Wrong Decision

*Principles That  
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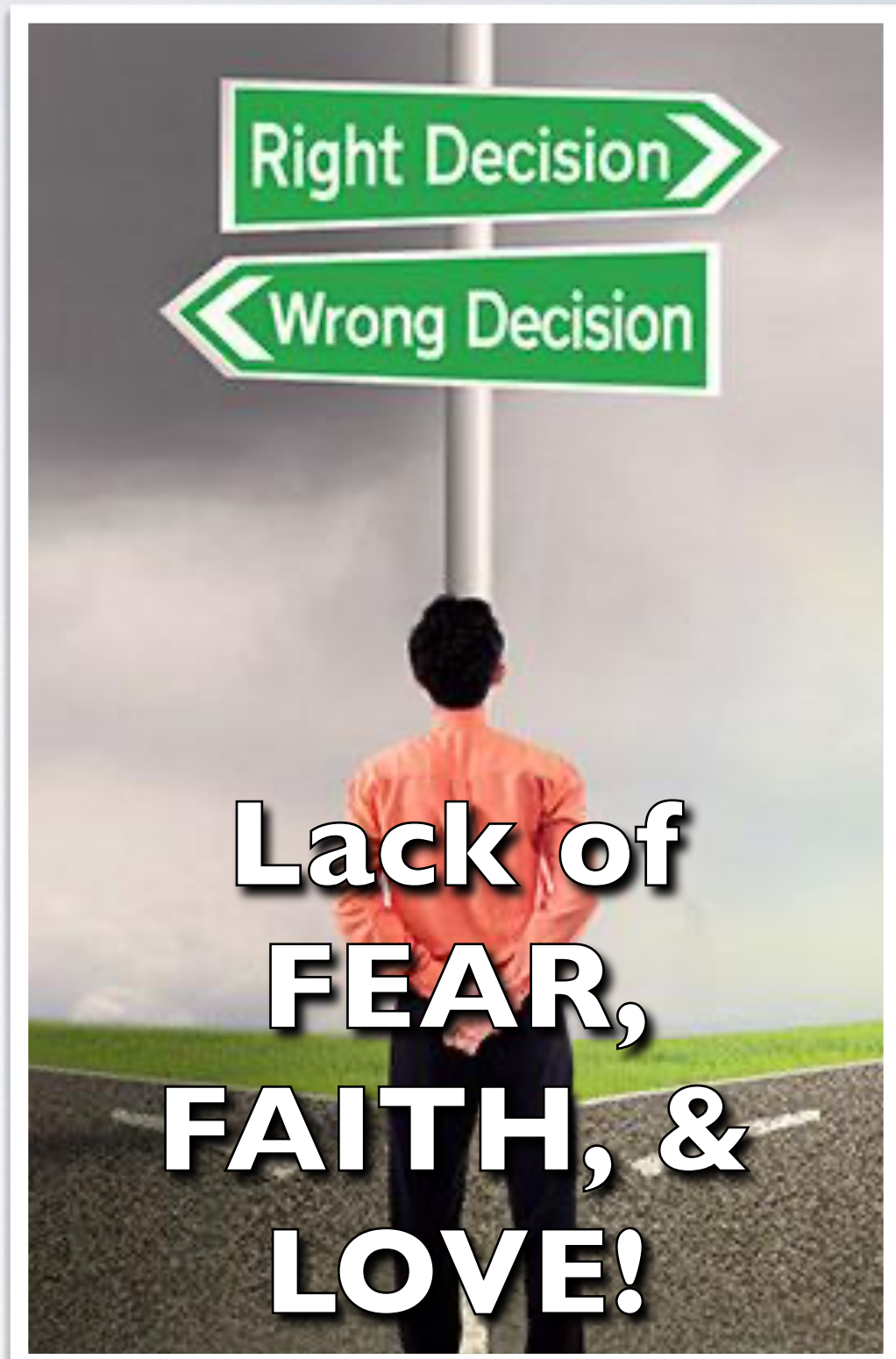
**HOW TO MAKE  
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# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

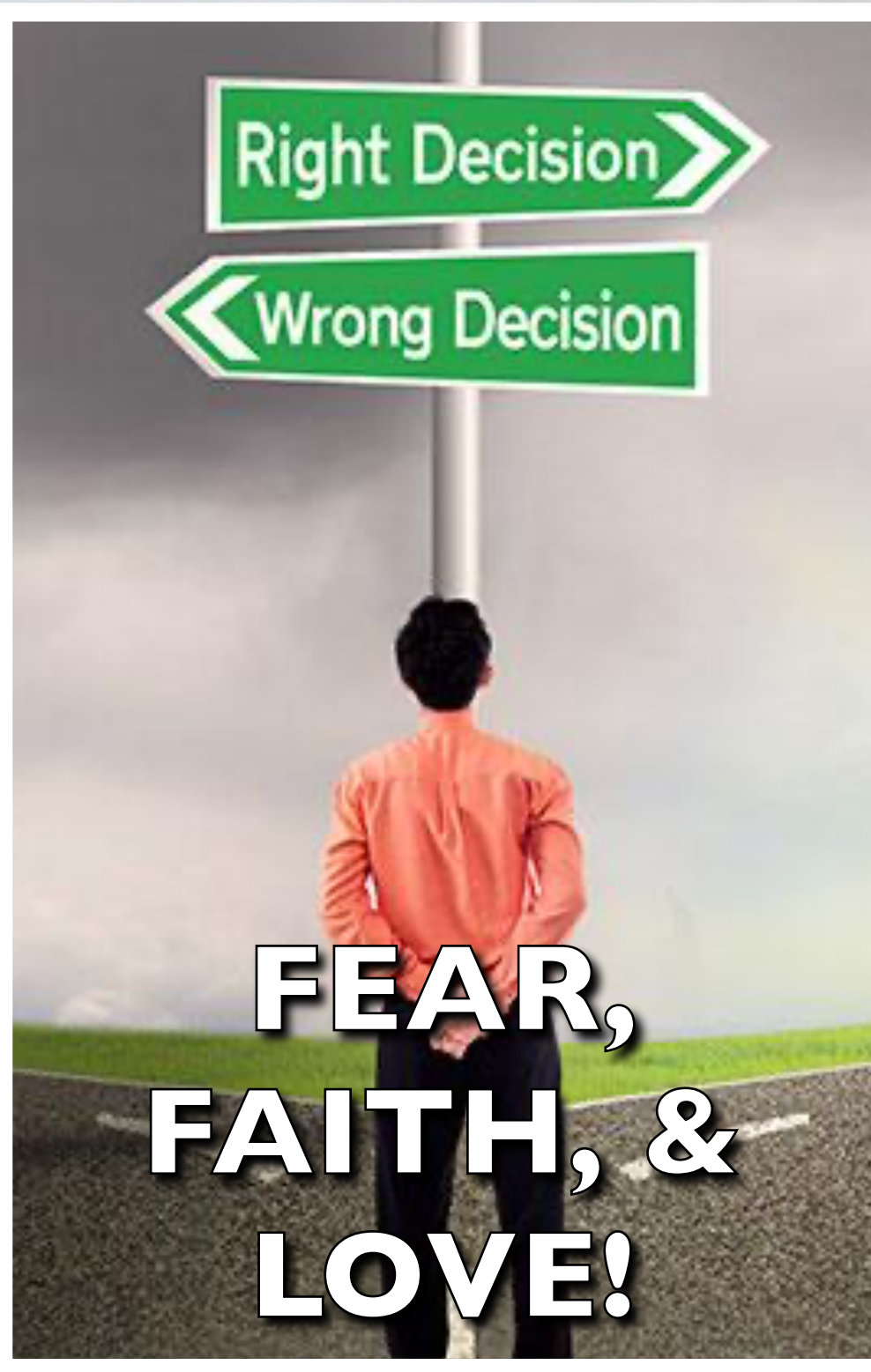
## Decisions that dishonor God are governed by:

- Pride / Selfishness (Pr. 21:4; Jam. 4:3)
- Prioritizing temporal possessions, pleasures, success (Lk. 18:18-25)
- Human wisdom / tradition (Mat. 15:7-9; Col. 2:8; Jam 3:13-16)
- Bad theology / doctrine (Acts 17:22,23; Gal. 1:6,7; 5:1-4)
- Our emotions [*Never make a permanent decision because of a temporary problem*] (Pr. 14:12; Je. 10:23)





# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

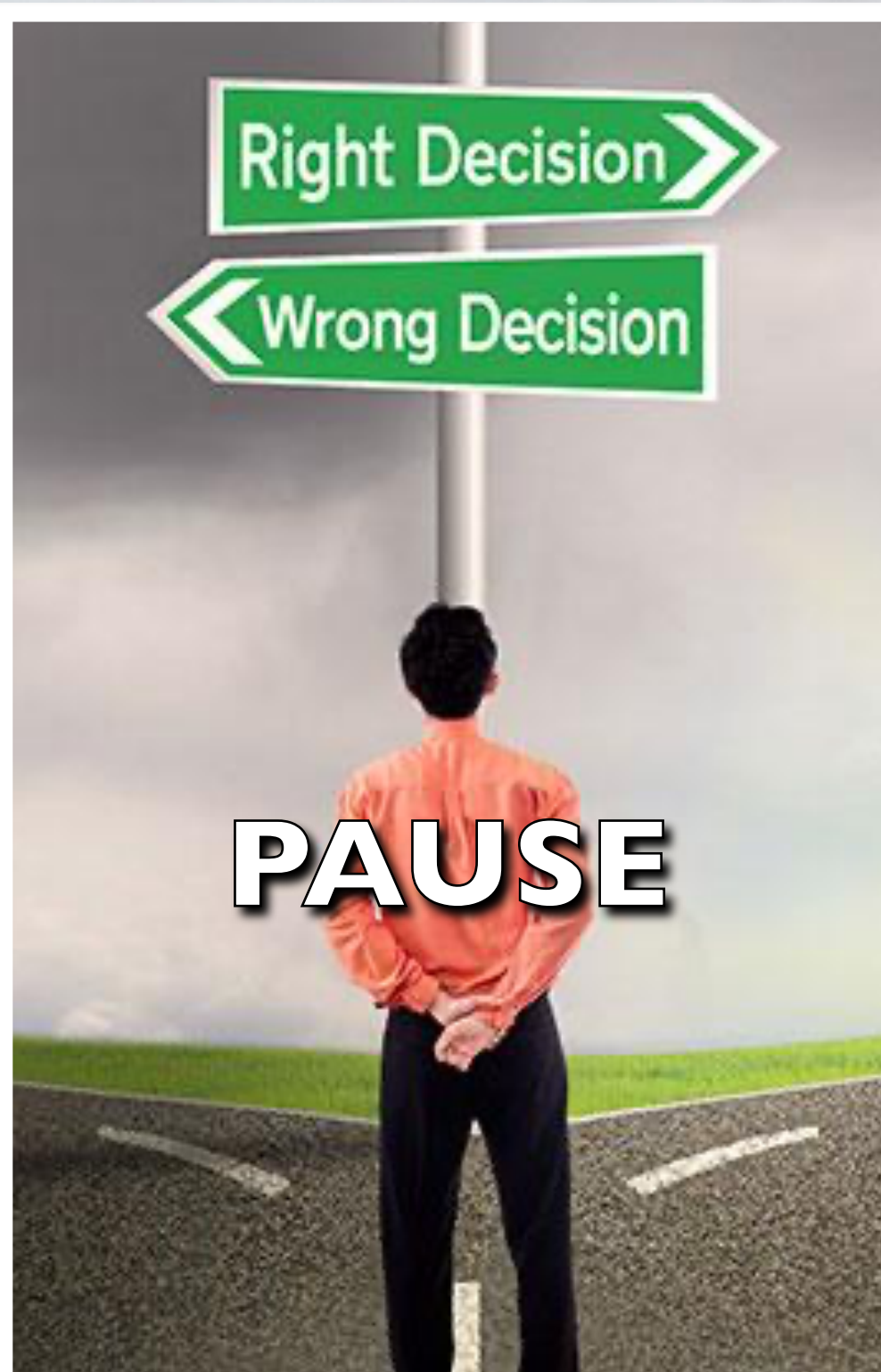


## Decisions that HONOR God are governed by:

- Humility / Love (Jam. 4:6-10; Mk 12:29-31; Rom. 13:8)
- Prioritizing spiritual things (Col. 1:1,2)
- Divine wisdom / tradition (1 Cor 1:18-25; Jam. 3:13,17-18; 2 Th. 2:15)
- Correct theology / doctrine (Acts 17:24-31; Jn 8:32; 1 Tim. 4:13-16)
- Appealing to the objective standard of God's word (Rom 3:4; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Heb 5:12-14)



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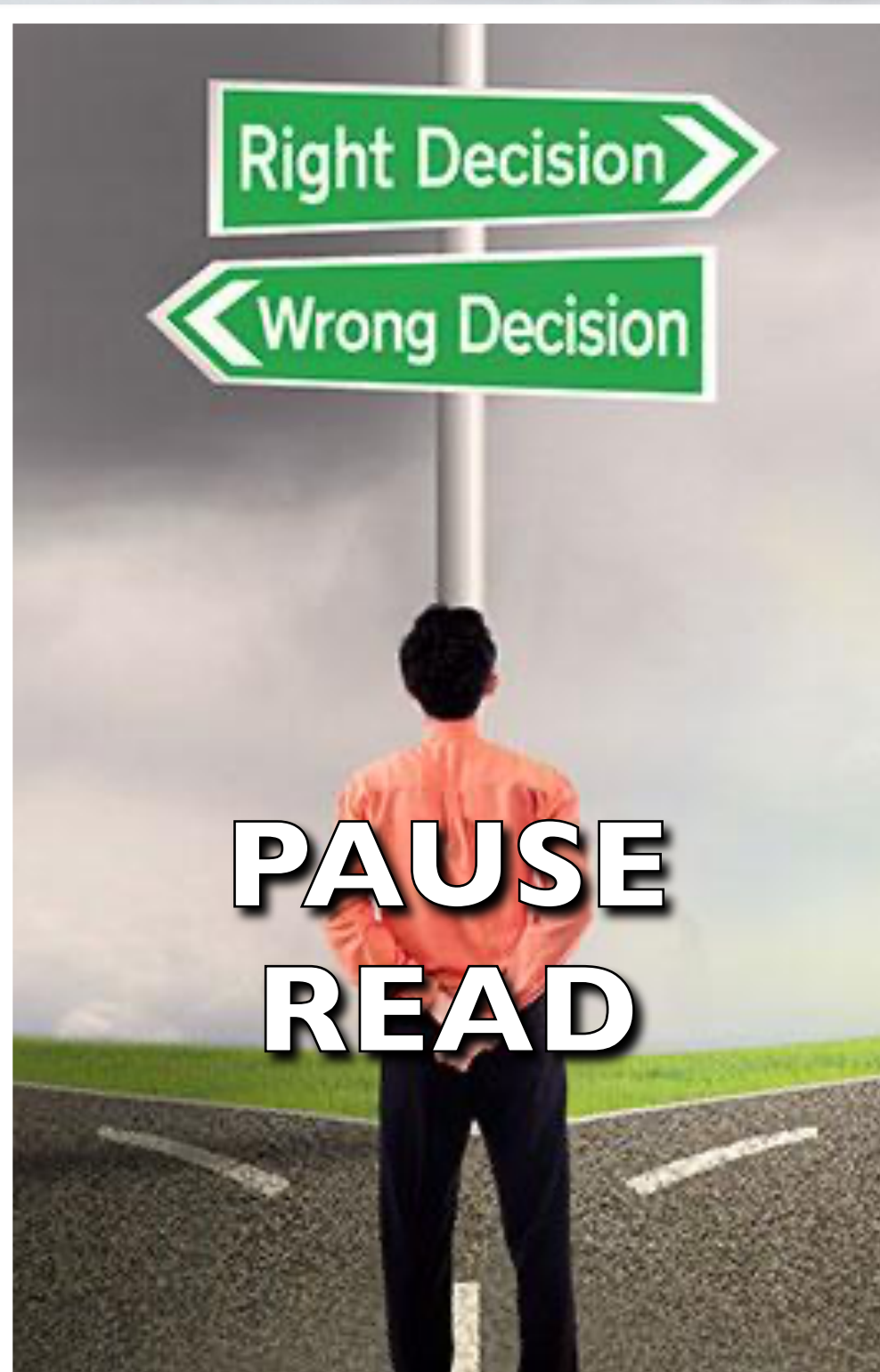


## Proverbs 19:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Also it is not good  
*for* a soul *to be*  
without knowledge,  
And he sins who  
hastens with *his* feet.



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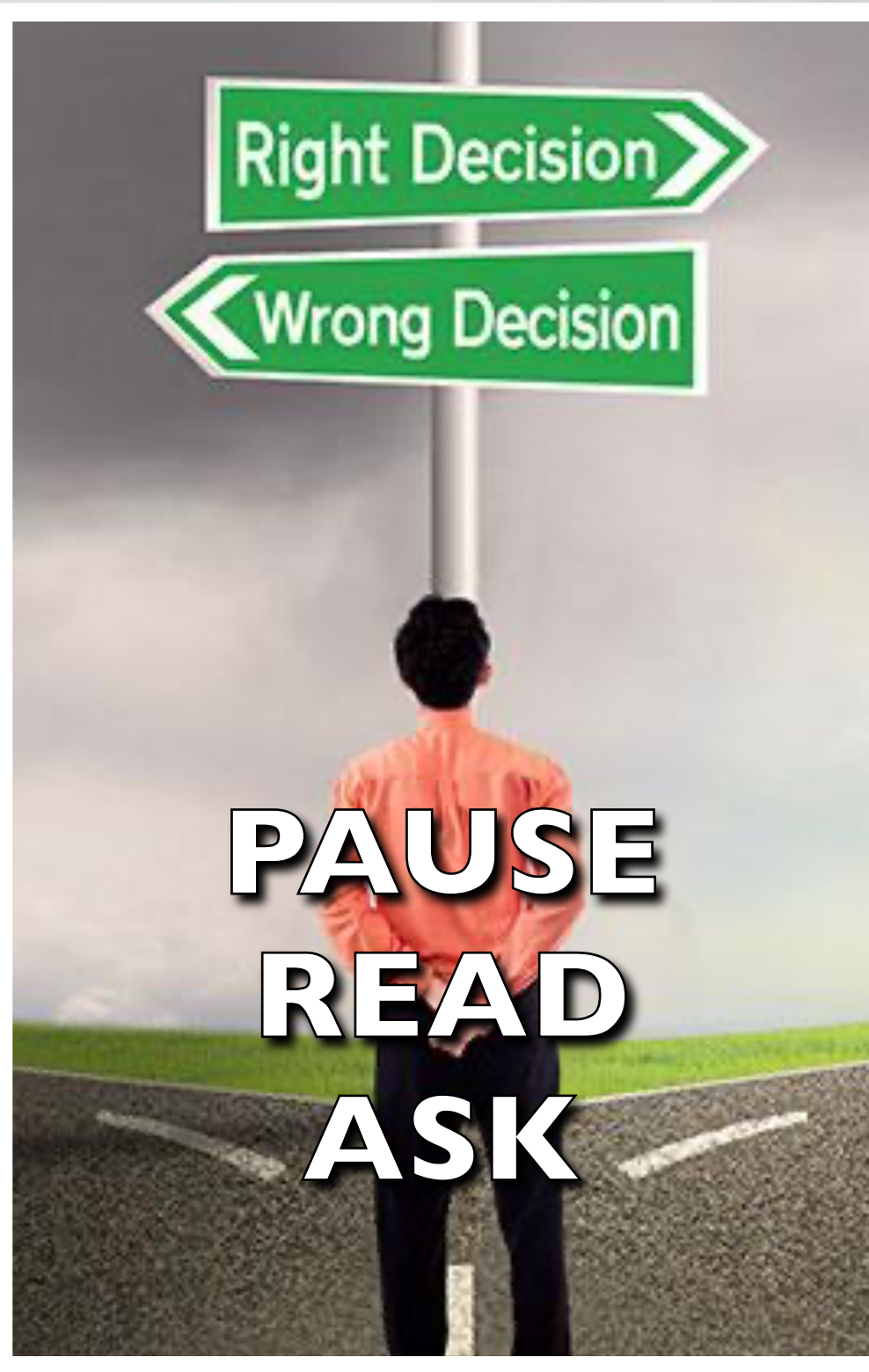


## Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word *is* a  
lamp to my feet  
And a light to my  
path.



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## Proverbs 15:22 (NKJV)

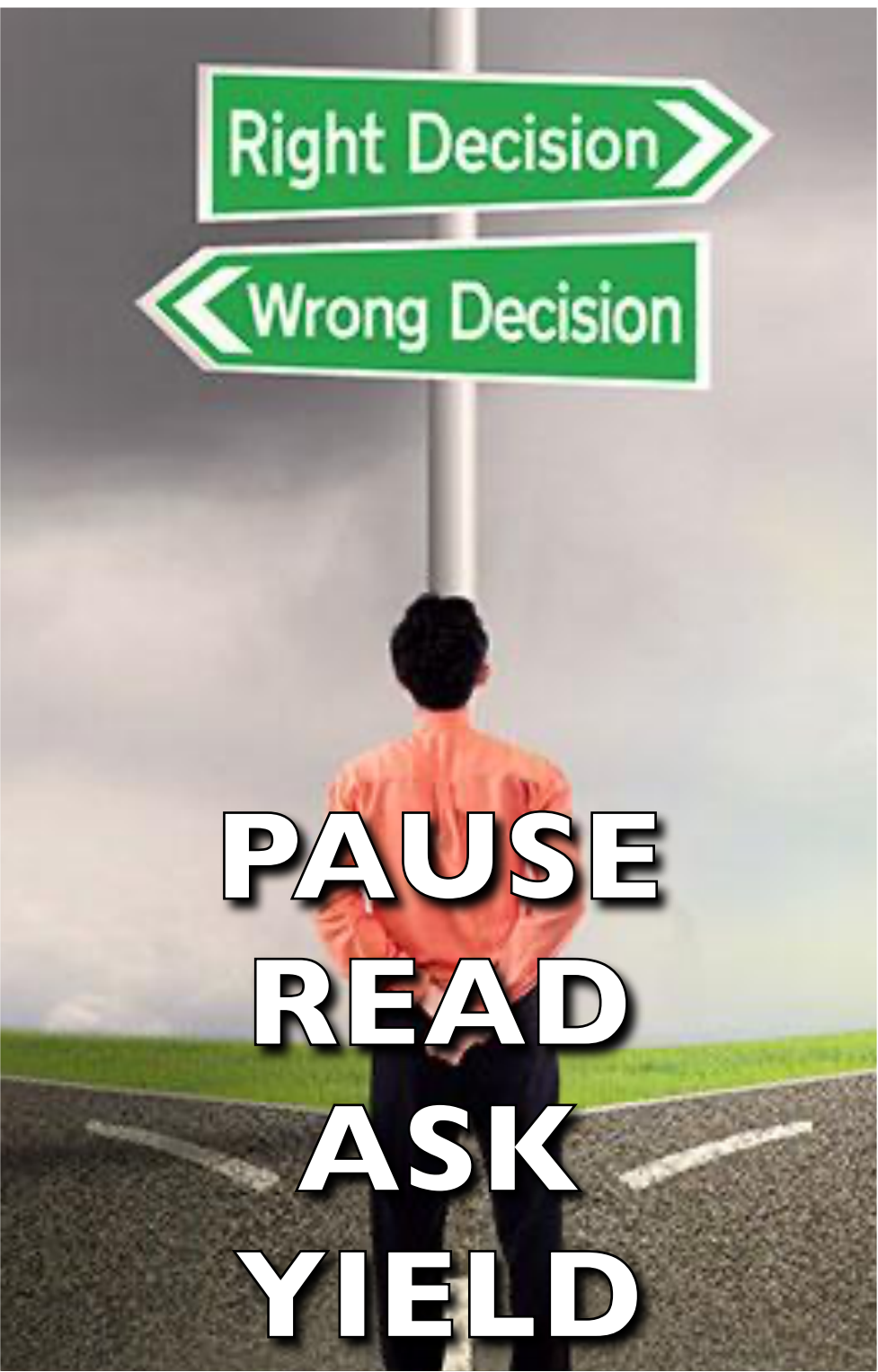
<sup>22</sup> Without counsel,  
plans go awry, But in  
the multitude of  
counselors they are  
established.



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

## Luke 22:41–42 (NKJV)

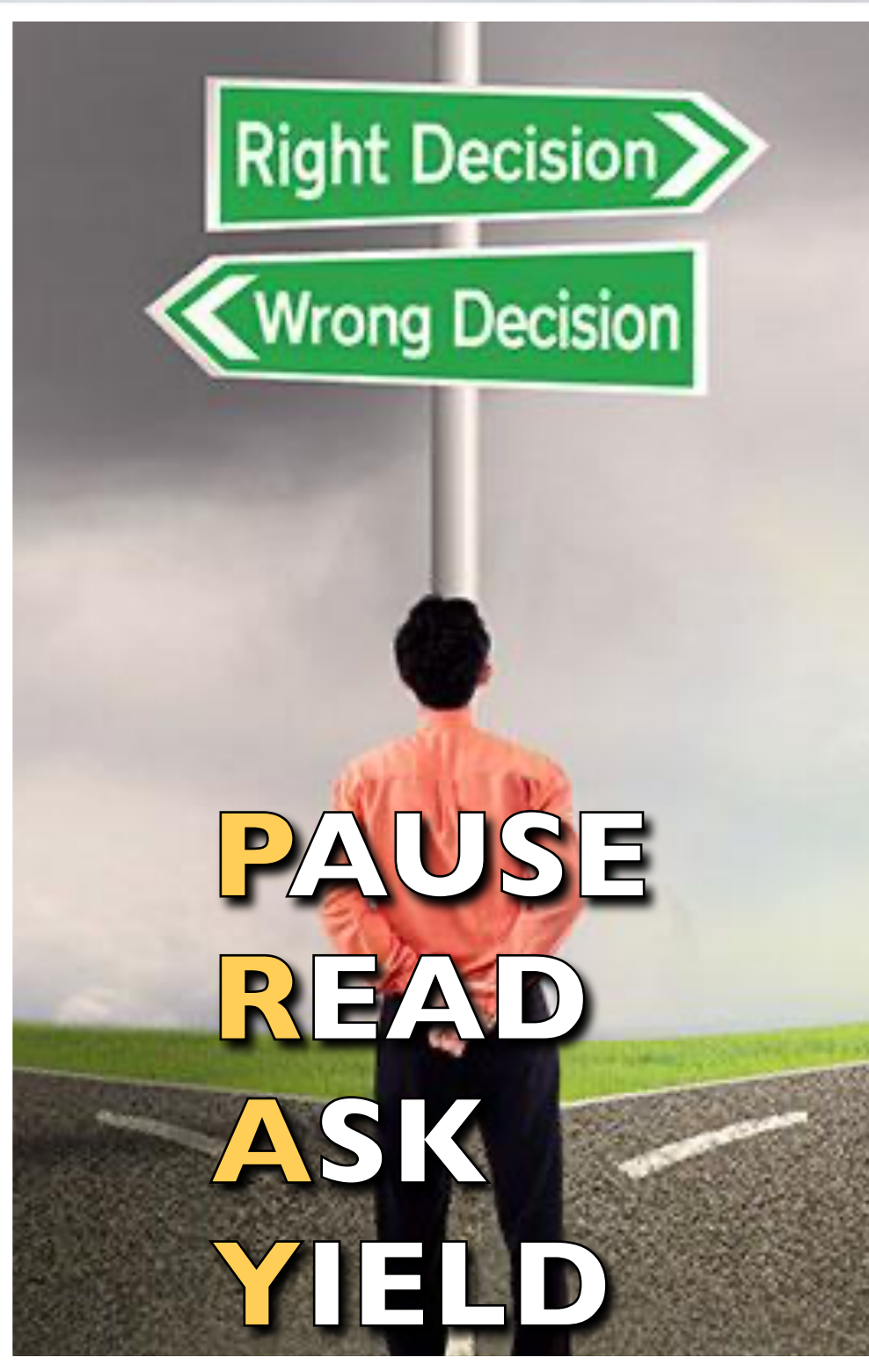
<sup>41</sup> And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."



**PAUSE  
READ  
ASK  
YIELD**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD



## Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- **D**edication of Purpose (Rom. 12:1; Prov. 16:3)
- **E**xpel Dissenting Voices (Rom. 12:2a)
- **C**larity of Mission (Rom. 12:1, 2b)
- **I**ncrease Knowledge (Rom. 12:c)
- **S**ubmit to God's Will (Rom. 12:2d)
- **I**nclude Others (Rom. 12:3-6)
- **O**bey What We Know To Be Right (Rom. 14:23)
- **N**ever Give Up (Heb. 12:1,2)



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

Colossians 3:1–4

(NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- Our decision to follow God (or Not) affects EVERY other decision we make (Mat. 6:33; Mark 12:29-31; Co. 1:9-11; Pr. 1:7)
- Wise decision making is in direct correlation to the degree in which we RESPECT, LOVE, & TRUST God & understand His revealed will. (Prov. 4:1-27; 2 Tim 2:15; Jam. 4:7-10; 2 Pet. 1:5-11)





Right Decision

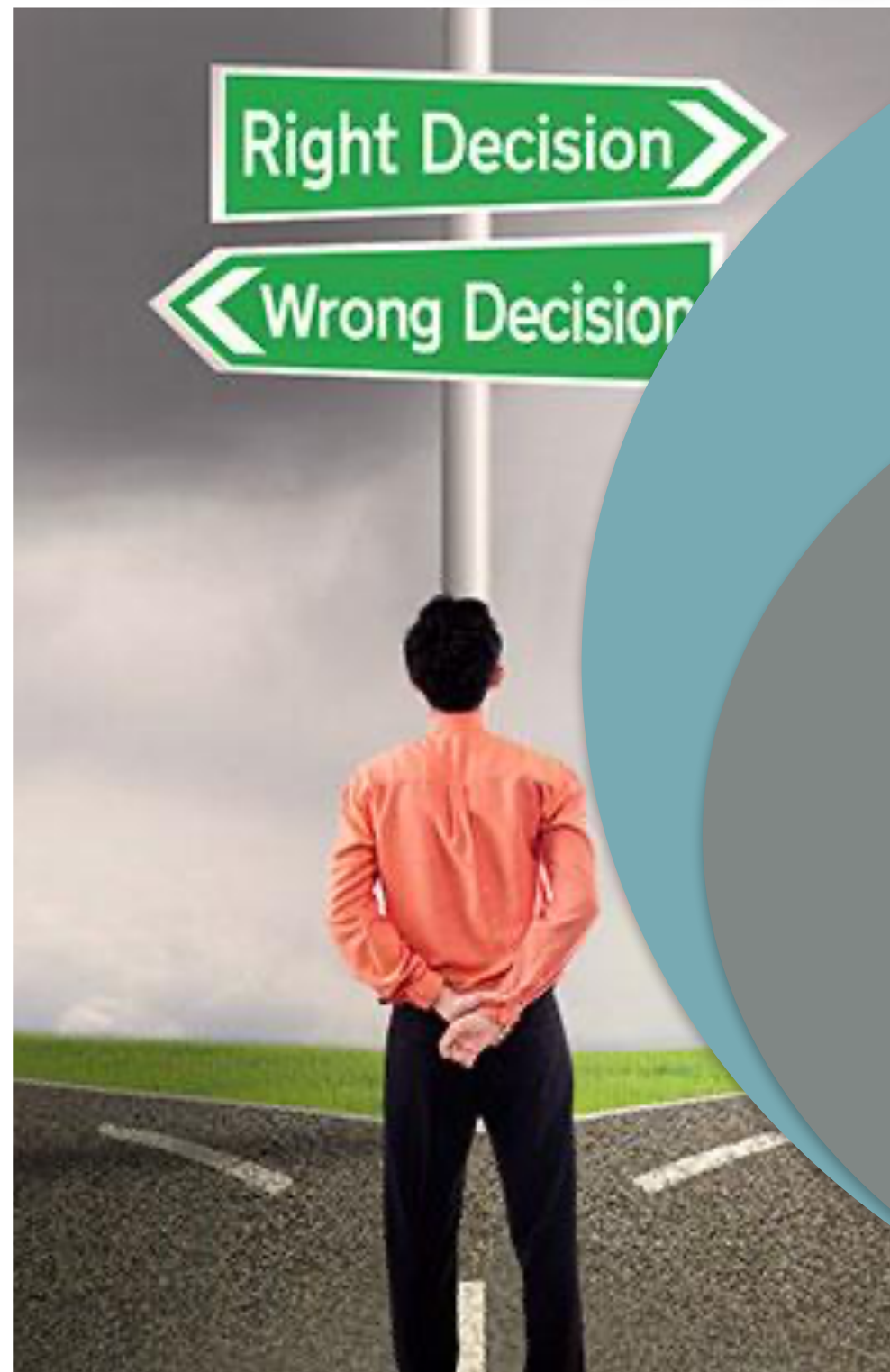
Wrong Decision

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**ARE WE  
MAKING  
DECISIONS  
THAT  
HONOR  
GOD ?**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD



True Joy, Happiness,  
Peace, Eternal Life

**Result**

Extends To Everyday  
Decision Making

**Walk**

Understanding  
Biblical Principles

**Growth**

Choosing To  
Follow God

**Initial  
Choice**



A close-up photograph of a person's foot wearing a brown leather shoe, stepping onto a white arrow painted on a dark asphalt surface. The arrow points towards the bottom left of the frame. The person is wearing blue jeans. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the pavement and the person's leg.

# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

**WHAT IS THE  
TRUTH?**

**WHAT IS  
RIGHT?**

**WHAT IS WISE?**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

**WHAT IS THE TRUTH? / WHAT IS RIGHT? / WHAT IS WISE?**

**Accurate & Sufficient  
Information**

**Adequate Understanding  
of the Information**

**Appropriate Application of  
the Information**

**Consider the consequences  
of our decision**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

**We have ALL MADE  
MISTAKES!**

**Let the past be the past  
- EVALUATE / LEARN /  
MOVE FORWARD In  
OBEDIENCE TO JESUS**



# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

**Don't Delay Making  
Wise Decisions**

**“Choose This Day  
Whom You Will Serve”**







# HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT HONOR GOD

**Charts by Don McClain**

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# 1 Kings 18:20–24 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.



# 1 Kings 18:20–24 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” So all the people answered and said, “It is well spoken.”