

SIGNS & SEASONS

PASTOR MITCHEL MERSHAWN - MAY 22, 2022

MAKING WISE CHOICES

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NLT

"What do you think the difference is... between those who are "really making a difference and who are really fulfilled" and "the rest of the world?"

- Craig Groeschel

The quality of your decisions determines the quality of your life.

What kind of Life do you want to have?

"Space flight will never tolerate carelessness, incapacity, and neglect. Somewhere, somehow, we screwed up. It could've been in design, build, or test. Whatever it was... We should have caught it. We were to gung-ho about the schedule and we locked out all the problems we saw each day in our work. Every element of the program was in trouble and so were we. The simulators were not working, mission control was behind in virtually every area, and the flight and test procedures changed daily. Nothing we did have any shelf life. Not one of us stood up and said, "Explicit word" — stop it!" I don't know what Thompson's committee will find as a cause, But I know what I find...We are the cause! We... were not ready! We... did not do our job! We were rolling the dice, hoping that things will come together by launch day, when in our hearts we knew it would take a miracle. We were pushing the schedule and betting that the Cape would slip before we did...

From this day forward... flight control will be known by two words: "Tough & Competent."

TOUGH: means We are forever accountable for what we do or what we fail to do. We will never again compromise our responsibilities. Every time we walk into mission control, we will know what we stand for. COMPETENT: means we will never take anything for granted. We will never be found short in our knowledge and in our skills. Mission control will be perfect. When you leave this meeting today, you will go to your office and the first thing you will do there is to write:

"Tough and Competent" on your blackboard. It will never be erased. Each day when you enter the room these words will reminds you Of the price paid by Grissom, White, Chaffee. These words are the price of admission to the ranks of mission control.

- Gene Kranz (NASA's Director of flight operations)

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From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT

Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.

Proverbs 4:7 NLT

Wisdom: the proper application of God's principles of cause and effect in your thinking, relationships, career, health, finances, and spiritual life.

1. PRAY ABOUT IT & GO TO GOD'S WORD.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

For the LORD grants wisdom! From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6 NLT

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7 NLT

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 NLT

ASK YOURSELF:

- Have I prayed about this?
- What does the Bible say about it?
- Who can help me better understand what God's Word says about this decision?

2. TAKE THE TIME TO GATHER THE FACTS.

It is dangerous and sinful to rush into the unknown.

Proverbs 19:2 TLB

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Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps. The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence.

Proverbs 14:15-16 NLT

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

Proverbs 18:13 NLT

"Once the facts are clear the decisions jump out at you."

- Peter Drucker

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

Proverbs 18:17 ESV

3. COUNT THE COST.

But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

Luke 14:28 NLT

Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.

Proverbs 21:5 TLB

Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.

Proverbs 22:1 NLT

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

Proverbs 10:9 ESV

Ask yourself:

Have I counted the costs?

Have I considered how this might affect my integrity, credibility, and my witness for God?

4. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH WISE COUNSEL

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

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Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
Proverbs 13:20 ESV

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.
Proverbs 10:17 ESV

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.
Proverbs 18:1-2 NKJV

Ask yourself:
Have I separated myself from my circle of wisdom?
Who have I allowed into my life to speak truth in my blindspots?

Wounds that hurt cleanse evil and strips clean out the inside of the heart.
Proverbs 20:30 NKJV

...the Lord disciplines the one he loves..
Hebrews 12:6 NIV

5. FOLLOW THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.
Isaiah 30:21 NKJV

Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.
Proverbs 3:6-8 NLT

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
Proverbs 16:25 ESV

Today I have given you the choice between life and death... Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!
Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT