

**Choices: Good vs. Evil**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
**April 6-7, 2019**

**ACTS 20:20-21 NLT**

*“I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.”*

**Repentance** occurs when we awaken to the truth, and are fully persuaded to the core of our being, that our philosophy or behavior is contrary to our Creator’s.

**ACTS 20:26-27 NLT**

*“I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.”*

**MATTHEW 7:21-23 NLT**

*“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”*

**ISAIAH 7:14-15 NKJV**

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to REFUSE THE EVIL AND CHOOSE THE GOOD.”*

**Principles of Good vs. Evil:**

1. Good is difficult and unpopular. Evil is easy and popular.

**MATTHEW 7:13-14 NLT**

*“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”*

2. You will have to deal with the idols in your heart.

An idol is anything that we put before God in our lives.

An idol is anything we draw strength from, or give our strength to, over God.

### **MATTHEW 7:15 NLT**

*“Beware of FALSE PROPHETS who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.”*

### **EZEKIEL 14:1-10 NLT**

*Then some of the leaders of Israel visited me, and while they were sitting with me, this message came to me from the Lord: “Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their hearts. They have embraced things that will make them fall into sin. Why should I listen to their requests? Tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the Lord, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves. I will do this to capture the minds and hearts of all my people who have turned from me to worship their detestable idols.’”*

### **2 TIMOTHY 4:2-4 NIV**

*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

3. You will have to choose between God’s will and your will.

### **DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20 NKJV**

*“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 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. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 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. 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; 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.”*