

I'd like to look at two passages of Scripture. First at Ps. 119:97-106 (reading text). Then from Ps. 32:8-9(reading text).

I'd like to say a few words about making choices. It is often very difficult. As a young fellow I remember very often feeling that with all the variety of things between which one had to choose, the variety of decisions it was necessary to make, I sometimes would look at the cows eating on the hillside and think how much more pleasant the cows eating there, not having to make any choices. Living there quite and peaceful lives there but God did not make us cows. He made us human beings. It is His intention that we should make important choices and that we should learn how to make them right.

The last verse I read said, Be not like the horse or as the mule which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle. If we really belong to God He necessarily will control us with bit and bridle, but he doesn't want to have to do that. He wants us to be such that He can lead us and direct us without having to use bit and bridle.

Thank the Lord He will use bit and bridle when it is necessary. Many a Christian wanders off on a false path, does that which is harmful and gets off into paths that are sinful even though he truly belongs to the Lord. God takes him with bit and bridle and forces him back into the right path. God will do that to us some times in His kindness to us. But He doesn't want us to be that way. He wants us not to be like the horse and mule that have no understanding. He wants us to have understanding.

He doesn't want us to be automatons. He wants us to be those who are anxious to do His will. How shall we know His will? That is not always evil. In fact it is often difficult. We have many choices to make. Often we can't see the results of these choices.

I was thinking of a little ridge up in the mountains of PA. A little drop of water falls. There's a cabin on top of the ridge. This drop of water may fall an inch further this way or that way. If it falls this way it falls down into a little creek over here. If it goes that way it goes into a creek over there. It would go down in those creeks for half a mile and they would join, and it would come on out into the Susquehanna R. What difference does it make which one it goes into?

Suppose that little drop of water stood up there poised wondering, Should I go this way? Should I go that way? It does not make any difference. After half a mile you come out exactly the same place. Now let's suppose that drop of water was a little further west. If it was an inch this side it would come down in a creek and go into a river and go out into the Atlantic Ocean. If it went the other way it would go eventually into the Ohio R. and go down to the Mississippi and go down into the Gulf of Mexico. Eventually they would join. They would reach the same point eventually, but it would be a long distance between.