“It’s Life or Death” – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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Grace, mercy, and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Many of you have heard the phrase before “it’s a matter of life or death.” Or in other contexts we remind ourselves that “it is not a matter of life and death” in order that we might not overdue the importance of any particular event or experience.

What things are matter of life and death? Even small decisions although we might think they are small can cause deadly outcomes. Texting and driving is a bad idea. Not wearing a seat belt. Speeding in a construction zone. All these are small decisions that can lead to life or death.

God promises that when we choose the good we choose life. The original 4th commandment says that if people obeyed their parents they would live long in the land. Paul makes a note of it in Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” We listen to our parents so that we would live a long life. Sometimes we make decisions
that we think won’t have consequences. But we realize the truth every day.

Abortion a great deal of guilt. Adultery a great deal of loss. Greed like spending a lot with a credit card a great deal of repayment. Worshipping other God’s a great deal of chaos and disappointment. Coveting creates a great deal of discontentment. With all this disobedience we soon will be living a life full of destruction. These traps and false gods flat out destroy our lives.

James 4:4 You adulterous people Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Ephesians 2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Despite our disobedience, Jesus chose life for us. On the heels of life Sunday, life month, and the life march, we have a Savior who did choose life. He sweat drops of blood knowing what had to be done, but he still chose to die for us. John 10:18 No one
takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Notice this was a charge from God the Father. Through Jesus passive and active obedience he took our place on the cross. This was God’s will for us in Christ Jesus.

As sinful human beings you and I are dead, blind, and enemy of God. A pastor was once teaching an adult confirmation class and he told the class to lie dead to show the sinful state of every person. Now get up,” he said. If they moved he said, “You can’t do that your dead” If they spoke to ask for help he said, “You can’t speak, your dead.” Only by the hand of God lifting us up can we be alive. And by his hand we have long life, eternal life in heaven.

This is a song by evanescence a band that began in the nineties and remakes have been done by Christian artists because of the strong spiritual overtones.

Bring me to life.Wake Me Up Inside, how can you see into my eyes like open doors, leading you down into my core, where i’ve become so numb.without a soul, my spirit sleeping somewhere cold,until you find it there and lead it back home.wake me up inside,wake me up inside, call my name and save me from the dark.bid my blood to run,before i come undone.save me from the nothing i’ve become.bring me to life breathe into me and make me real.bring me to life. frozen inside without your touch, without your
Ralph Harms, 78, was playing golf with his son Joe and friend Doug Green on July 30, 2013. After a great shot at the fourth hole, Ralph remembers hollering, “Yeah, baby.” The next thing he remembers is waking up in the hospital three days later. Ralph had collapsed on the course in full cardiac arrest just seconds after that great shot. Though he says he was familiar with the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, “cardiac arrest is like walking up to a light switch and just turning it off,” he says. “There was no warning.”

About four years prior, Ralph and Joe were watching a football game together on T.V. When a commercial about CPR came on, Ralph asked his son if he was certified. The elder Harms had taken Red Cross CPR classes every two years for decades in order to keep his CPR certification active. His son had not yet done the same, and Ralph recalls getting on the floor to show Joe the proper way to do chest compressions.

“It’s a good thing Joe remembered—or I wouldn’t be here,” Ralph says. While his friend Doug called 9-1-1 with a cell phone, Joe began CPR. With paramedics en route, Ralph’s heart started and stopped three times. All the while, Joe continued chest compressions.
Ralph miraculously survived and spent three days in a drug-induced coma. Ralph knows it was his friend and son’s efforts and the CPR know-how that contributed to his survival.

We know the one who came back to life after three days Jesus. We know Christ’s Promised Resurrection as our eternal CPR. Yet others don’t know what Jesus can do for them. Living empty lives, dead inside, wishing they could be alive, we have the cure for death, the resurrection! Now we are called to choose life, not for ourselves, but for others so that they may live, that they may have life forever.