

Message from the Barton Manse

"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days." Deuteronomy 30:19-20

These words from Scripture were addressed to the people God had rescued from captivity in Egypt. This is just before Moses' death, just as the 'people of Israel' are on the edge of the 'Promised Land'. Their Wilderness wanderings are over and now God is outlining to them the possibilities for their future.

God has put before them a choice - life or death. People don't like such stark realities, we all want to soften it, we want to make some compromises. But God has already told the people in chapter 6 "Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your strength". Not half hearted but whole hearted.

Just as God rescued the 'People of Israel' from Egypt and the years in the Wilderness, so God has rescued us from our captivity. God was their Saviour and is ours. God longs for our survival and prosperity so God, having challenged them and us, calls us to "choose life".

How are we to do that? By opting to love Him and so by our allegiance to Him will we inherit all the blessings He has promised. Then and now people want happiness, peace and their material needs met, but every generation has made the mistake of aiming directly for those things, and too often they are like desert mirages and disappear from view as soon as they seem to be within reach. God's promise is that blessings will be there but as by-products of following Him. God wants His people to find a fulfilled life, one with a future which runs into eternity. It is out of His love for each one of us that He puts before us the blunt choice of life or death. He wants each one of us in his Eternal home so God asks us to choose - Choose Life!

God bless, Ros.