

Intro.

- A. When the team is down by 1 TD, & an interception is thrown, teammates may ask qtr-back.....
1. Let your mind take you back to time teams were being picked to play game – **Whose side am I on?**
 2. Have you ever gotten confused about whose side you were on, & ended up helping the opposite team?
 3. If not careful, could end up hurting your team & helping the wrong side win the game.
- B. That has happened many times over, but let's think about a similar account in **Ex. 32:21-29**
1. God had a covenant (*contract, an agreement w/ promise*) with Israel, & Moses up Sinai to get the Law.
 2. The Israelites had been rescued f/ slavery in Egypt & were wait for Moses to come down f/ Mt.
 4. Growing impatient, they persuaded Aaron to build an idol as an object of their worship.
 - a. While this was taking place, God told Moses how His people had rebelled, & His anger was intense.
 - b. Although Moses spoke to quiet Lord's anger, Moses own anger grew hot as he saw the idolatrous celebration going on at the foot of the Mt.
 5. Moses then confronted the people, asking them, **Who is on the Lord's side? (Ex. 32:26)**
- C. That powerful, thought-provoking, life-changing question must be answered by each of us.
1. Asked by Elijah (**1 Kgs. 18:21**), Joshua (**Josh. 24:15**), & Christ (**Mt. 6:24**)
 2. There are only 2 possible sides, & we must choose 1 .
 3. When we make the choice, need to consider these very significant differences:

Discuss.**I. THE SIDE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- A. The Lord's side of **righteousness** is the side of **holiness, justice & truth**.
1. **1 Thes. 4:7**, God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.
 2. Christians extend the hope of *holiness* to other members of their family, c. **1 Cor. 7:14**
 4. The church = *holy* (**Col. 1:21-23**), as are our brethren (**1 Thes. 5:27**)
 5. God said, *Be holy in all your conduct...for I am holy.* **1 Pet. 1:15f**
- B. Satan's side = side of **sin, iniquity, injustice and error**.
1. **1 Cor. 10:1-6**
 2. Therefore, we need to *...Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:* **Heb. 12:14**

II. THE SIDE OF LIGHT.


- A. The Lord's side is the side of **knowledge**.....of **right & wrong**. (**Rom. 10:3**)
1. Simeon described the coming Christ as *a light to bring revelation to [lighten] the Gentiles, & the glory of...Israel,* **Lk 2:32 & Ac. 13:46-47**
 2. Remember w/ me John's opening description of Jesus in **Jn. 1:4-9** (c. **3:19-21; Jn. 8:12; 9:5**)
- B. Satan's side is the side of **darkness, folly, ignorance & superstition**.
1. The before & after pictures of the Ephesians shows the contrast vividly, **Eph. 5:6-8**
 2. *The god of this world* would keep us in darkness for ever if he has his way **2 Cor. 4:3-6**

III. THE SIDE OF GOODNESS.

- A. Who is on the Lord's side of **compassion & mercy**?
1.The riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; leads us to repentance? (**Rm. 2:4**)
 2. Paul was confident that those seriously wearing name of Christ were also *full of goodness*, **Rm. 15:14**
 3. Peter directly tells us to have compassion for each other, **1 Pt. 3:8**
- B. Satan's side of evil, hatred, murder, & death.

1. Person is fooling 'self if they imagine are walking in the light, & yet hate their brother, **1 Jn. 2:9, 11**
2. H. S. said if we hate our bro., we = a murderer, & do not have eternal life, c. **1 Jn. 3:15**
3. Lack of compassion is further evidence of being on Devil's side, **1 Jn. 3:17**
4. Jesus said in **Jn. 3:20** that everyone practicing evil hates the light....lest they be exposed.(c. **vs. 19**)

IV. THE SIDE OF RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY.

- A. Those who are obedient to & have respect for higher authority are on the Lord's side.
 1. Paul was determined to know that the church at Corinth had grown *obedient in all things*, **2 Cor. 2:9**
 2. If you & I have the *mind of Christ*, then we will *become obedient....to the point of death*, **Phil. 2:5, 8**
- B. Satan's is the side of rebellion, stubbornness & disobedience.
 1. God's law & authority \gg threat or terror to good men who do what's right, but to lawless,
(See **1 Tm. 1:8f**; cf. **Rom. 13:3** **Tit. 1:16**)
 2. Again, Paul described to Tit. those who *profess to know God, but....deny Him, being...disobedient.* 

Concl.

V. THEN THERE ARE THE SIDES OF BLISS AND OF MISERY.

- A. It is often extremely confusing how much misinformation is given about the *end results of our choice!*
 1. Pleasures of sin are short-lived at the very best, c. **Heb. 11:25**
 2. Whatever the cost of living a Christian life = trifling small invest in a heavenly mansion, **Phil. 3:8**
- B. There are really only 2 sides from which you can choose, & you know where each will lead.
 1. The **Lord's side** = side of an abundant life(**Jn. 10:10**) & eternal glory(**2 Tm. 2:10**)
 2. **Satan's side** = side of eternal tragedy, endless separation & suffering & destruction in hell fire,
- C. There is *no union* between the 2 sides: no compromise, no common ground & no fellowship.
 1. If you are still trying to "*straddle the fence*" it is time right now for you to choose the Lord's side.
 2. You're ready to be baptized for the remission of you sins if.....
 - a. You really & truly believe that Jesus = God's Son, & you are ready to make that good confession
 - b. You are willing to turn away from the sins you have committed, & follow the Lord.
 3. If you know that you have not been faithful to God as one of His children, you can come back now
Since you are now ready to repent of your sins & be reunited with your Father & His family/church.