

Intro.

1. 2-weeks ago, an airline pilot was filmed asleep at controls. *If life = a flight thru time, who is in cockpit?*
 2. Occasionally hear of a youngster (under 5) wrecking car. *If life = a joy-ride, who is behind the wheel?*
 3. Remember 199 , when riverboat captain cause collapse of bridge over Lake Ponchitrain in LA, & several died? *If life = a voyage, who is at the helm?*
- B. Where are we headed in life? \rightleftarrows That all depends.
1. Decisions we make determine direction. (**Josh. 24:15**)
 2. Direction we go determines destiny! (**Mt. 7:13-14**)
- C. Will we ascend or descend at the judgment? It all *depends on who makes our decisions.*

Discuss.I. “ME”

- A. In his poem, “*Invictus*”, Wm. Ernest Henley expresses the sentiment: *I am the master of my fate; the captain of my soul.* Poem often used in H.S. grad. (Henley = Eng. humanist, crippled since childhood)
1. Henley’s philosophy has been adopted by many young people.
 2. Interestingly, Frank Sinatra’s song, *I Did It My Way* is often requested at funerals today.
 3. It seems, from the beginning of one’s adult life, to the end, many say...*I make my own choices.*
Nobody tells me what to do!
- B. Scriptures abound with examples of several who had “ME” on their life’s throne.
1. Foolish rich farmer was misdirected, but he was not alone in suffering from a self-centered heart.
 2. He had a rich relative who awoke in torments to the folly of the “me” philosophy, **Lk. 16:23**
 3. Need to realize that self-will also took Nebuchadnezzar from his throne, **Dan. 4:30-37**
 4. Agrippa never managed to relinquish control of his life to the Lord, even though close, **Ac. 26:28**
 5. **Ac. 24:25** Thought of giving Christ the throne of his life produced trembling in Felix.
- C. Paul wisely instructed,
1. *Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth...I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own...,* **1 Cor. 10:24, 33** **Phil. 2:2-3**
 2. **Self-will** keeps one from being fit as a bishop in God’s house, **Tit. 1:7**, or even a faithful Christian \
 3. 1st century Jews in Rome in were guilty of *going about to establish their own righteousness*, refusing to submit to the righteousness of God, **Rom. 10:3.**
- D. The man who thinks he is in control of his life is sadly mistaken.
1. There are no free men in sins’ death camp, (Study **Rom. 6:17, 23**).
 2. Did your dad ever let you hold the steering wheel & guide the car for just a moment? Who controlled that vehicle when the car veered out of the center of the lane? Dad quickly made necessary corrections.
 3. Many are sitting in Satan’s lap, & are steering their lives towards a lake of fire, but imagine they are in control of their own lives. (c. **Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12**)

II. “MEN”

- A. 2nd group of people allow public opinion to dictate their decisions, & need to make a Saul-like confession.
1. *I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, & thy words ... because I feared the people, & obeyed their voice.* **1 Sam. 15:24**
 2. Adam followed Eve into sin & death; Abraham’s fear of Abimelech motivated him to lie (**Gn. 20:11**); Aaron fashioned the golden calf to meet public demand, **Ex. 32:21-24.**
 3. Listening to the voice of a blood-thirsty mob, Pilate surrendered an innocent Christ for crucifixion.
 4. Many have been the rulers who believed on Christ, but would not follow Him because of the crowd,
c. Jn. 12:42f & 5:44
- B. Christians must strongly resist the influence of men who would press us into their own mold, **Rom. 12:1**
1. Paul warned about temptations trap to please men rather than God, **c. Gal. 1:10**
 2. Followers of Christ must dare to be a *peculiar people*, **Tit. 2:14**
 3. Even following opinions of loved ones instead of the Lord will eliminate us as Jesus’ disciple, **Lk.14:16**
 4. The fact is, “men” are not a safe guide to follow through life into eternity, **c. Mt. 7:13f**

III. “MESSIAH”

- A. Christ is the 3rd possible choice as to who will rule your life.
1. In **Rev. 3:20** we see Him standing at the door of every heart seeking entrance.
 2. His way into our lives is never by force (**Lk. 24:28f**)
 3. Decision to enthrone Him in our life involves...
 - a. Renouncing all that we have, **Rev. 12:11**
 - b. Taking up His cross, **Lk. 14:26f**
 - c. Following in His footsteps as closely as we can, **1 Pet. 2:21-24**

Concl

- B. It sounds like a difficult choice, but is one never to be regretted, **2 Cor. 7:10**
1. His truth sets us free from sin & death, **Jn. 8:32**
 2. The life found in Him is abundant, **Jn. 10:10**
- C. From the time Joshua chose to give God his life/allegiance (**Josh. 24:15**), he was never disappointed.
1. Truth is, *No man can serve 2 masters; for either he will hate the one & love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & mammon.*
 2. Who is at the controls in your life? If it's not God's anointed one, Jesus Christ, then you need to
Come forward right now in answer to the Lord's invitation.