

1. Tonight, I want to look at the choices of two men and then make applications to our lives.
2. First, let's look at Lot and his choice.
 - A. Lot was Abraham's nephew. Genesis 12:5.
 - B. Lot accompanied Abraham in his journey to the promised land. Genesis 12:5.
 - C. He was apparently blessed by his association with Abraham. He was rich. Genesis 13:5. More importantly, he was righteous. 2 Peter 2:7-8.
 - D. Lot had to make a choice. Abraham and Lot's possessions were so great that the land could no longer sustain them if they lived together. Genesis 13:9.
 - E. Lot's choice. Genesis 13:10-13.
 - F. The long-term consequences of Lot's choice.
 - 1) War and kidnapping. Genesis 14:11-12.
 - 2) Vexation. 2 Peter 2:7-8.
 - 3) Persecution. Genesis 19:4-9.
 - 4) The loss of his material possessions. Genesis 19:24-25.
 - 5) The loss of his wife. Genesis 19:26.
 - 6) The birth of sons by his own daughters. Genesis 19:30-36.
3. Second, let's look at Paul and his choice.
 - A. Paul was well educated. Acts 22:3.
 - B. He was very successful. Philippians 3:5-6; Galatians 1:13-14.
 - C. Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:3-4.
 - D. Paul's choice. Acts 9:5-6, 8-9, 17-19B.
 - E. The short-term consequences of Paul's choice.
 - 1) Persecution. Acts 9:23. It didn't abate. 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. It eventually cost him his life.
 - 2) The loss of everything he had previously enjoyed. Philippians 3:7-8.
 - 3) Mistrust even among Christians. Acts 9:26.
4. What was the difference between Lot's choice and Paul's choice?
 - A. It seems clear that Lot chose what he thought was in his short-term interest, what he wanted immediately; Paul chose what was in his long-term interest, what he wanted ultimately.
 - B. Lot chose what was easiest; Paul chose what was best.
 - C. Lot focused on the temporal; Paul focused on the eternal.
 - D. Lot began his journey to Sodom with no thought for the end of the road in mind. Paul began his journey to Damascus with every thought for the end of the road in mind.
 - E. Lot made the wrong choice; Paul made the right choice. Philippians 3:11-14.
 - F. God expects us to make choices like Paul. Philippians 3:15.
5. Application. Do we make the following choices like Lot or like Paul? Do we choose with the beginning or the end in mind? Do earthly or heavenly considerations dictate our choices?
 - A. Who am I going to date? Marry?
 - B. How am I going to conduct myself sexually before marriage?
 - C. How am I going to treat my spouse? Raise my children?
 - D. How am I going to make a living?
 - E. What college am I going to attend?
 - F. Where am I going to live?
 - G. How am I going to spend my money?
 - H. How am I going to spend my free time? What am I going to do for rest and relaxation? Am I going to drink alcohol? Proverbs 23:29-35.
 - I. Am I going to attend church? What church am I going to attend? How often am I going to attend? Am I going to go to Bible class? How often am I going to go to Bible class?
 - J. Who am I going to have as friends? Etc.
6. We've seen how Lot and Paul began. Consider their end. Imagine Lot waking up from his drunken stupor. "Where did I go wrong!" Imagine Paul waking up in the judgment day. "I knew heaven would surely be worth it all!" In all our choices, like Paul, let's have no regrets. In all our choices, like Paul, let's always begin with the ultimate end in mind.

