

## The Path You Choose . . .

**This is your world.** The future is in your hands. The outcome is up to you. The way to exaltation is not a freeway featuring unlimited vision, unrestricted speeds, and untested skills. Rather, it is known by many forks and turnings, sharp curves, and controlled speeds. Your driving skill will be put to the test. Are you ready? You are driving. You haven't passed this way before. Fortunately, the Master Highway Builder, even our Heavenly Father, has provided a road map showing the route to follow. He has placed markers along the way to guide you to your destination. Perhaps you may recognize some of His sians:

- "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12).
- "Search the scriptures; for . . . they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).
- "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).
- "Be ye clean" (<u>3 Nephi 20:41</u>).

That evil one too has placed road signs to frustrate your progress and to lead you from the path of truth into detours of sin. His detours all lead to a dead end. Have you noticed his markers?

- Just this once won't matter.
- It can't hurt anyone but me.
- My love is mine to give; my life is mine to live.
- Times have changed.

Now we see coming into focus the responsibility to choose, that inevitable crisis at the crossroads of life. He who would lead you down waits patiently for a dark night, a wavering will, a confused conscience, a mixed-up mind. Are you prepared to make the decisions at the crossroads?

I can't stress too strongly that decisions determine destiny. You can't make eternal decisions without eternal consequences.

May I provide a simple formula by which you can measure the choices which confront you? It's easy to remember, sometimes difficult to apply: You can't be right by doing wrong; you can't be wrong by doing right. Your personal conscience always warns you as a friend before it punishes you as a judge.

Thomas S. Monsen "Decisions Determine Destiny", CES Fireside for young adults, Brigham Young University, November 6, 2005. (YW Maze created by Artist Chris Gunn and donated to <a href="https://www.jennysmith.net">www.jennysmith.net</a>)