Topic: Choices

The Choices We Make Now Affect Our Future A Sequel of Back to the Future

Many popular movies have a sequel, in which many of the original characters are placed into a new storyline. This second devotion is, in effect, a sequel to last week's devotion, showing a second perspective on the future.

A key concept of Doc Brown's time machine is that a person can view what life will be like in a future dictated by decisions made earlier in life. In other words, we "reap what we sow." Here are two examples of Marty McFly seeking to change the future by going back in time, and doing things differently.

If you remember the storyline Doc Brown is gunned down by Libyan Nationalists in the Hill Valley shopping center parking lot. By going back in time Marty hopes to alter the timing of the Libyan's surprise attack on Doc. He is successful, leaving behind only the smoking tire tracks of the DeLorean.

A second example involved the romantic relationship of his parents. Browbeaten and called a "slacker" by his high school principal, Marty must also endure the acrimonious relationship between his nerdy father and his lovely mother. They are bullied by Biff at a critical time in their high school relationship. Accidentally transformed by the time machine to 1955, Marty inadvertently interferes with the romance of his future parents, so he goes back in time to try and to reunite his parents-to-be. If he fails, the marriage won't materialize and Marty's own existence will not happen. Only a movie could convince us that this could be possible.

In real life we can't go back and forth through time. We live our life in "real time" with real life consequences of our actions. Decisions, good or bad, at one stage of our life may have an effect on the rest of our life. Our excuse

is that life comes at us pretty fast in real time. We may be dealing with multiple issues all at once, and may make a rushed decision that alters the course of our life. Or, we may just plain ignore the ramifications of our decisions. The science fiction character Marty McFly did change the course of history; we cannot, and our life can be forever changed by choices made earlier in life.

So, how do we make wise choices? Know in advance what your standards and values are, and don't let your guard down. Bring God into the conversation. Through prayer ask Him what you should do, and listen and watch for clues as to His advice. Follow His teachings in the written Word. Answers to our questions are found in the Bible. Seek wise counsel from people of faith, to help

written Word. Answers to our questions are found in the Bible. Seek wise counsel from people of faith, to help you apply God's Word to your issues.

Don't rely exclusively on worldly advice from people who don't base their lives on God's Word. The world wants you to follow the crowd rather than to follow Jesus. There is a big difference in what is right and what the world accepts as appropriate behavior.

We don't live in a fantasy world of the movies. Once we make our choices we can't go back in time to undo what we have done. Don't give in to temptation. It may be difficult at the time, but make the right choice in the first place. Then you can live your life fully and in a manner pleasing to God. In fictional movies you can go back in time. In real life, you live your own biography and reap the benefits and consequences of your decisions.

Scripture: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:7-10).

Question: How can you ensure that you make the best choices for your life?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the investment of life you place in our hands. We pray we will cherish it and make good decisions on how we are to live it. We know there is no time machine that allows us to change our past actions. Help us to make the right choices in the first place. Amen.