

This last weekend was our annual CYC (Challenge Youth Conference) in Gatlinburg, TN. The over theme for the weekend was making the right choices and the wrong choices affect our eternal destiny. It was eye opening and many hearts were touched through God's Word. There approximately five to six thousand people attending the first session and to hear that many voices singing praises to God was pure delight and on the verge of heavenly.

Throughout the weekend speakers spoke about different challenges we face each day and how we handle them by leaning upon God to guide us. Folks, it was wonderful to see that so many youth and adults had taken the time to come to such an event. It is equally wonderful that so many elderships see the good that this weekend is and made it possible for so many ministers to be away from their home congregations to support such a good work.

Since we stayed at cabins in Pigeon Forge we had decided to have our own worship assembly there in the cabin. While riding back from our last session on Saturday night I turned to one of our adults and asked what he thought I should preach to the group about. He didn't hesitate and made this statement, "I heard Andy Griffith say this, 'O what a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive'"; he also said he knew Andy didn't coin that phrase but it had stuck with him. So I preached that lesson and want to share some of it with you.

In II Samuel 11 David made the choice to look on Bathsheba and fall into the devil's temptation. She would become pregnant with his child and David would have Uriah murdered after failed attempts of getting him to think it was his child. David made some horrible choices, but none of the consequences had hit him square between the eyes. Sin has a way of hiding its horrible consequences and satan does n a good job of helping us lie to ourselves that even if we do realize them, we think they're not that bad. Even though David had done this terrible thing he didn't realize until Nathan rebuked him in chapter 12.

David lost his son that Bathsheba bore him and the Lord said in verse 10 of chapter 12 that the sword would never depart from David's household. He stated further in verse 11 that an adversary from his own house would rise up against him. You see, it was the choice's he made to continue to look upon Bathsheba, to rid himself of Uriah and attempt to cover his sin. David's choice cost him more than a moment of passing pleasure could ever fulfill.

Good friends, David attempted to deceive God and the whole house of Israel through his sin and in the end it cost him everything. What choices lay ahead for you to make? Oh, they're out there for you to make; right and wrong; that is the choice you will make. Do me a favor, in fact, do you a favor and lean on God. Study His Word and develop a relationship with Him through your prayer life and allow God to guide you in your decisions. God bless each of you as you walk with Him daily. May we all fully lean upon our creator and sustainer.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes