

# The things we decide shape life's journey

**H**ave you ever thought of the fact that we make choices every day, and that things happen as a result of our choices? Later on we can sometimes look back and trace how those earlier choices have shaped the direction our life journey has taken.

What happened was that we decided to do something, study something, go somewhere, get to know someone. When I add up those choosing moments, the sum of them all describes at least one part of the person I have become.

The other parts of that whole that describes who I am are made up of other people's decisions that affect my life. The most important part is God's choice in my favor, first when He chose to create me, and when He, at great cost, chose to redeem me.

**IT IS A MARK** of human dignity that we are choosers and deciders, and it is an evidence of our importance that our choices make a difference in the outcome of the stories of our lives and other people's lives as well.

One very big question on the minds of earnest Christians is: "How can I make certain that my choices are in accord with the will of God?" We often ask ourselves, "Is there some way that I can test that what I am choosing so that it is faithful to



## From Your Pastor

*Earl F. Palmer*

what you call them." (Genesis 2:19)

When we seek some proof from God that the wife or husband choice we want to make is the right one, the answer is just as surprising: "... a man will leave his mother and father and cleave unto his wife..." (Genesis 2:24) "...you choose your husband, wife and treat your spouse with honor..." (1

the will of God and not outside of God's will?"

The Bible gives us surprising answers to these questions.

**WHEN WE** asked for some sign that would make us sure that we were naming the animals correctly, since these classifications are vital for future biology classes, the answer from God takes us by surprise: "I don't care, just name them and I'll call them

Thess. 4:3,4)

The point is this — most of the choosing we do in our lives is ours to do without roadway markers from God that show to us His preference of one road rather than another. He really has set us free to make our own decisions and to be responsible for the decisions we make. The Bible teaches that whatever way we choose, we should make our choice to the glory of God.

**THIS FREEDOM** both simplifies and complicates our lives. Now we know that we are responsible to make choices and God will not make our choices for us, nor should anyone else.

Therefore, I need to find out what I really want to do when it comes to choosing my work, the place to live, the persons who become my special friends, the ministries where I want to serve. This is important because I can live to the glory of God in Seattle just as I can in Albania or Washington D.C. I can bring glory to God at the Everett plant of Boeing just as I can teaching youth at Garfield High School.

God has decided that I will decide. Jesus said it clearly, "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32) This means that as God's truth grows in my life, freedom increases too.