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GEORGE W. TRUETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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## A WORD FROM TRUETT

*Texas Baptist Leadership* magazine reported that Iraq president Saddam Hussein once took delivery of a copy of the Koran written in his own blood. Hussein had the volume produced in thanks to Allah for bringing him safely through the many “conspiracies and dangers” in his long political career.

Hussein said, “My life has been full of dangers in which I should have lost a lot of blood... but since I have only bled a little, I asked someone to write God’s word with my gratitude.”

In contrast to the above-mentioned Koran written in one man’s blood, our Bible comes to us through the blood of many martyrs. Remembering this should make our Bible more precious to us than ever.

At the British Library in London, there is a sculpture of a Bible configured so that it appears open with the “pages” forming a bench. While it appears open and inviting, the sculpture also has a large chain and ball attached to it. The artwork reminds us of the time when the Bible was kept chained at the church and it was unavailable to the people. Thank God today the Bible is no longer chained. It has come to us through the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. At Truett we treasure it, live it, and teach it as the authoritative word of God.

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## A SERMON

Title Life’s Greatest Choice  
Text Joshua 24:13-15

Introduction Life has been defined as the sum total of all our choices. From the cradle to the grave we face many life-changing choices. Joshua presents to us life’s greatest choice.

- I It is a necessary choice. Every person must choose for or against Christ. To refuse to make a choice is to make one.
- II It is a personal choice. We are individually responsible to God. No one else can decide for us.
- III It is an urgent choice. Death is sure and life is uncertain. Today is the day of salvation.
- IV It is the logical choice. When you weigh the consequences it alone makes sense.

Conclusion Joshua said, “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” I hope you will make that your choice, also.

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## PASTORING

One day, there was a blind man sitting on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet and a sign that read: “I am blind, please help.” A creative commercial writer was walking by and stopped to observe. He saw that the blind man had only a few coins in his hat. He dropped in more coins and, without asking for permission, took the sign and rewrote it. He returned the sign to the blind man and left.

That afternoon the writer returned to the blind man and noticed that his hat was full of bills and coins. The blind man recognized his footsteps and asked if it was he who had rewritten his sign and wanted to know what he had written on it. The writer responded: “Nothing that was not true. I just wrote the message a little differently.” He smiled and went on his way.

The new sign read: “Today is spring and I cannot see it.”

Sometimes we need to change our strategy. If we always do what we’ve always done, we will always get what we have always gotten.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Nathaniel Hawthorne went home to tell his wife that he had just been fired from his job. “Good,” she said. “Now you can write your book.” “What do we live on meanwhile?” Hawthorne asked.

His wife opened a drawer filled with money. “I have always known that you are a man of genius,” she said. “So I saved a little each week, and now I have enough to last for a year.” Hawthorne used the time to write *The Scarlet Letter*, one of the great masterpieces of American literature.

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(continued from page 1)

*A Prayer for our Lives* by Gene Warr

Grant us...

- The desire to be holy rather than happy. *1 Thessalonians 4:3*
- The heart to see the honor of God advance through our life even if it means suffering temporary dishonor or loss. *1 Corinthians 10:31*
- The willingness to carry our cross. *John 16:33*
- The eyes to see life from God's viewpoint. *Colossians 1:9, 10*
- The conviction to die right rather than live wrong. *Daniel 3:16-18*
- The commitment to see others advance at our own expense. *Philippians 2:20-22*
- The mind that habitually makes eternity judgments instead of time judgments. *Hebrews 11:26*

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## LEADERSHIP

One of America's greatest leaders was President/General Dwight D. Eisenhower. He presided over the most massive operation in history, Operation Overlord – the D-Day invasion of Europe in WWII. Here are five marks of his leadership:

1. Eisenhower was completely committed to the United States and the military. He married Mamie when she was only 19 years of age. Two weeks after their wedding, he was ordered to go to maneuvers. She said, "Ike, you can't leave me. We've just married." He responded, "Mamie, you must understand that my country will always come first. You come second."
2. When Eisenhower died, he was buried in a \$95 regular Army coffin, just like any soldier. He never sought the limelight. He was never ostentatious. He just did his duty.
3. He had a desire to serve something beyond himself.
4. One of his mentors was General Fox Conner, under whom Ike served in Panama. He told Ike on one occasion, "Always take your job seriously, never yourself."
5. Early in his career, Douglas MacArthur was the chief of staff of the military. He and Ike worked together, but Ike detested his egotism and MacArthur refused to listen to others. He said he learned how not to command from MacArthur.

*From the A&E documentary on Dwight David Eisenhower, June 1, 2004*

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## QUOTES

- I heard one astonished participant in a debate say, "I wish I could be as sure about anything as that brother is about everything!" Benjamin Franklin said we should all be willing to doubt a little of our own infallibility! Russell Dilday, *Higher Ground*, p. 77
- In his book *The Angry Christian*, Andrew Lester declares, "I believe that not being angry at evil in all of its manifestations is sinful. In these circumstances, anger is a moral response." He quotes Elie Wiesel's belief that God has given us an important eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not stand idly by!" Russell Dilday, *Higher Ground*, p. 83

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## REMEMBER

George W. Truett Seminary is a Christ-centered, Bible-based seminary committed to our historic Baptist principles. Our vision is to be the premiere Baptist theological seminary of the world. Our mission is to serve the churches by training the next generation of ministers and missionaries.



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