

THIS IS ONEIDA DECISIONS AND REGRETS

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I was trying to catch a little nap as I watched some baseball. Our choir trip that day had been to a local church, so I was home a little earlier than usual. With three children in our home, attempting to nap can be challenging. Perhaps it is my children's way of paying me back for waking them up each school day. Waking my kids up each morning is one of my favorite things I get to do as a parent. I am not usually pleased when awakened from a nap, but this particular Sunday afternoon I was so pleased when my son woke me up and told me I had a visitor at the door. It was a classmate who was one of my very best friends while growing up here at Oneida. I spent many a weekend at his house down on Teges Creek.

It was great to catch up with my friend and hear how the Lord was at work in his life. We talked about some of the goofy things we used to do as kids. My friend admitted to me that he had spent several years away from the Lord and had made some poor choices during that time, but also shared how the Lord had blessed him recently. He also shared a couple of regrets from that time. During our senior year my friend quit the basketball team. He told me he still regretted that decision. He also said he regretted spending some years away from the Lord and felt like he missed out on what the Lord would have done in his life during that time. My friend and his family are now walking closely with the Lord and are a big part of a great local church. I look forward to spending more time with my prodigal friend.

Regrets often stick with us for a long time and perhaps even for the rest of our lives. I sometimes regret that I chose not to play college basketball. Telling my father I was not going to play any longer was one of the hardest things I ever had to do, but he loved and supported me anyway. The Lord provided a way for us to leave all regrets behind and that was through His son, Jesus Christ. When we are content in our walk and service to the Lord, he can turn our regrets into the ability to bless others.

I am sure some of our current students have regrets, and they often hear from our faculty and staff about their regrets. Our staff shares candidly with our students about their own experiences and regrets in the hope that our students will not make some of the same mistakes they have made. We do our best to teach our students to seek the Lord on each and every decision they make. If we do this, we will have few to no regrets in life.

Every day on this campus, I watch students make simple yet profound decisions. Poor decisions lead to unpleasant consequences. Good decisions lead to pleasant things. Both poor and good decisions help make our young people who they are, but more importantly, who they will later be in God's kingdom. Continue to pray that Oneida will be a place where young people can make decisions, both good and bad, and learn from them.



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