

How Do We Make Biblical Decisions in a Complicated World?

Few, if any, Christians or Christian organisations have the luxury of being able to make pure biblical decisions without reference or regard to the complicated and confused world in which we live. This seminar will look at some broad theological principles which should guide decision making, while considering practical questions such as "What do you do when faced with a major decision?", "What are the Biblical principles that guide you?", "How do you respond to unexpected change?", "Where do people usually get stuck and what steps do you take to become unstuck?". We will investigate the difficult task and often fine lines between seeking God's very best while living in a lost and fallen world. The seminar will help you understand biblical principles in decision-making while appreciating the environment in which you have to live.

Jacob Reynolds has served as principal of the Irish Bible Institute (IBI) since it was established in 2000. Prior to that, he spent 10 years in Canada, where he earned a BA in Biblical Studies and an MDiv in Christian Education. Jacob eventually returned to his native Ireland to serve as pastor of a city centre church for eight years before heading up the newly formed Irish Bible Institute. At IBI Jacob teaches in the areas of discipleship, leadership, and church & ministry. As he teaches and leads at IBI he continues to examine the process of leadership training within the context of IBI. He aims to isolate the factors which influence the training of individuals to be effective at bringing transformation in their own lives and in the lives of those they serve, and to evaluate to what extent the programmes delivered at IBI help or hinder that process.

Introduction: The Apostle Paul's view of decision-making

We will briefly consider three big questions and reflect on the significant implications they have on our personal and professional decision-making.

I. Is it good for the Gospel? Phil 1:12-18

A. Decision-making: In situations over which you have little control

B. Decision-making: Where the outcomes are unclear.

II. Is it good for the Church? Phil 1:19-26

- A. Decision-making: When decisions are life-changing
- B. Decision-making: How do we discern God's opinion about our decision-making?

III. Is it good for others? Phil 2:1-5

- A. Decision-making: How do I survive always deciding for the welfare of others?
- B. Decision-making: How should I consider "my interests" in areas such as education, profession, and welfare?