

## Making the Best of a Bad Decision by Erwin Lutzer

I had the opportunity to read a set of devotional writings published by Promise Keepers based on the book stated above. The writings presented the hope that we have in God even after we have messed up. Below are some of the excerpts from the devotional writings.

### The Messes we Make:

“How can I make the best of an unwise or hasty decision that had unintended consequences?” What happens when you cannot just pull yourself up by your bootstraps, but instead you feel as if one must spend the rest of your life in the ditch? Can you have the assurance that God will bless you even if your marriage has gone sour, or you’ve had a child out of wedlock, had an abortion, committed a crime, or made an investment decision that left you in financial ruin?

### Restoration:

God’s discipline does not entail his withdrawal from our lives and our circumstances. God will work with us where he finds us – even in the midst of what appears to be an unending wilderness. In the aftermath of our bad decisions, God will guide us, and forgive us. God does not abandon us when we have made a foolish decision. Sometimes our stupidity unveils his finest moments.

You are never in a situation that is beyond God’s ability to answer your prayers. Never stop praying never stop asking; and above all, never stop trusting. Someday you might even give God thanks for the wrong road you have chosen. With that kind of faith, your future is still bright. In fact, with faith in God’s sovereignty, we can even thrive after we’ve chosen “second best.”

### Never Abandoned:

Do you want guidance after you have chosen second best? God does not promise to guide us if we’d prefer to make our own decisions, but he does lead those who seek him with their whole heart. God’s presence is near to all who call upon him, even those who find themselves stranded on the rough patches of a life gone bad.

### Hope Endures:

But getting back on the right path is often difficult when much of your life is already spent. The good news, however, is that it is still possible. No matter what happened yesterday, tomorrow can be different.

Even as we round the next corner of a collapsing career, a failed investment, or a difficult marriage, God is waiting to meet us. We might never get back to where we were when we got off track, but God can blaze a new trail for us to make the best of our bad decisions. He is even able to take our “second best” and turn it into his “first best” if we give him the broken pieces.

He has a way of redeeming our lives from the pit – even the pits of our own making. God’s grace does not erase the consequences of our sin, but forgiveness does erase the self-incrimination and regret. Forgiveness heals our hearts, even if it doesn’t heal our relationships or return the time we have squandered. **With the past forgiven, there is hope for the future.**