

Joshua's Farewell Address

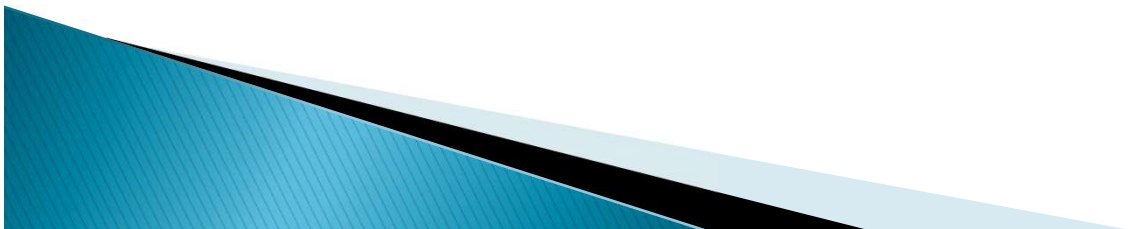
Joshua 24



Listen Israel...

- God did all this not with your sword or with your bow
- God gave you a land for which you did not labor
- God gave you cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them
- God gave you vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant, and you eat of them

**GOD IS THE GIVER OF EVERY
BLESSING YOU ENJOY**



Therefore...

- ▶ Fear the Lord
- ▶ Serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth
- ▶ Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt

SERVE THE LORD!



Fear the Lord

- ▶ Proverbs 1:7
- ▶ Psalm 111:10
- ▶ Reverence, godly fear
- ▶ Psalm 99:1
- ▶ Psalm 50:21
 - “you thought I was altogether like you”
- ▶ Service & worship offered to God must be offered with reverence and godly fear to be accepted by Him
 - Hebrews 12:28
- ▶ Compare to “contemporary” worship



Fear the Lord

- ▶ Joshua 23:3-16
- ▶ Joshua feared the Lord
 - He recognized His mighty works
 - He respected the authority of the Book of the Law of Moses
 - He knew the promises of God were sure, whether
 - The goodor
 - The bad



Therefore...

- ▶ Fear the Lord
- ▶ **Serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth**
- ▶ Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt

SERVE THE LORD!



Serve the Lord

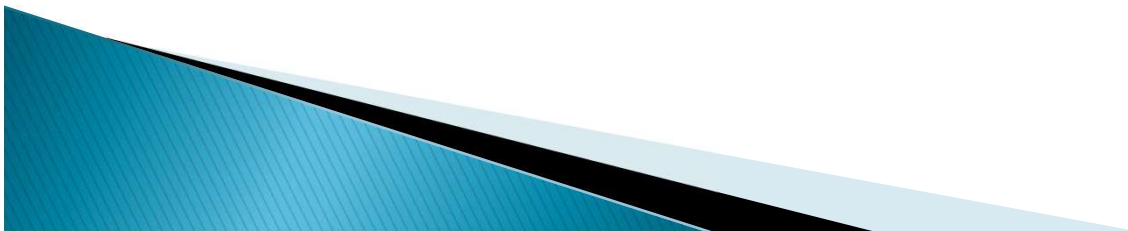
- ▶ In sincerity and truth
- ▶ In sincerity, without hypocrisy
 - Whole heart
 - Cannot serve and worship in word but live an entirely different way
 - Amos 5:21-24
- ▶ In truth
 - According to the law
 - God's revealed truth
 - Joshua 23:6
- ▶ Lay aside, reject, every doctrine and commandment of men
 - Matthew 15:8-9



Therefore...

- ▶ Fear the Lord
- ▶ Serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth
- ▶ Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt

SERVE THE LORD!



Put away the false gods

- ▶ They still had them among them
 - 24:23
- ▶ Repent!
- ▶ Sin, self, the world must be sacrificed
- ▶ Genesis 35:1-4
- ▶ Put off the old man
 - Ephesians 4:22
- ▶ Put him to death
 - Colossians 3:5



Therefore...

- ▶ Fear the Lord
 - Attitude
- ▶ Serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth
 - He's my Master
- ▶ Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt
 - Fruits of repentance

SERVE THE LORD!



Choose Now

- ▶ Joshua 24:15
- ▶ Joshua is encouraging, prodding them, to serve God
 - Not one of God's promises has failed
- ▶ If they find serving the Lord evil, then choose among the false gods
- ▶ But remember, these false gods have proven themselves powerless and useless
 - They don't deliver!
 - Rather, they enslave!



Joshua 24:15

- ▶ Every man must choose
 - A rational decision
 - A decision to be followed with devotion
- ▶ There is only one right way
- ▶ If unwilling to choose the Lord God to serve, then choose any god
 - One of these is as good as another



Every Man Must Choose

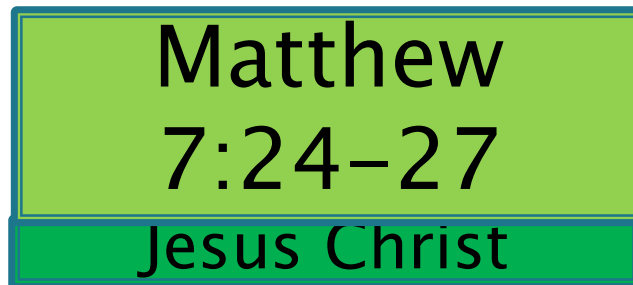
- ▶ A choice of the **path to follow**
- ▶ The paths lead to different places, so it is a choice of **destination**
 - Joshua 24:20
- ▶ Ought to be **soberly thought out**
 - Joshua 24:16-22
- ▶ Poor guides for that decision
 - Impulses
 - Feelings
 - The pressures of the moment



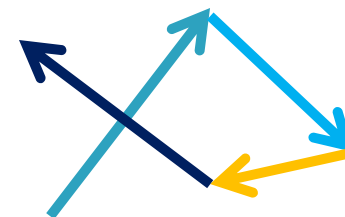
Every Man Must Choose

- ▶ Choosing the right course, the proper aim, and remaining steadfast in it
- ▶ **Building on a foundation** that will withstand

THIS:



NOT THIS:



Joshua 24:15

- ▶ Every man must choose
 - A rational decision
 - A decision to be followed with devotion
- ▶ **There is only one right way**
- ▶ If unwilling to choose the Lord God to serve, then choose any god
 - One of these is as good as another



There is Only One Right Way

- Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims? No.
 - John 14:6
- ▶ Impenitent? No.
 - Luke 13:3
- ▶ Unbaptized? No.
 - Mark 16:16
- ▶ What does the Bible say?
 - I Cor 4:6-7



There is Only One Right Way

- Ephesians 4:4-6
 - ▶ One body = one church
 - Today: one as good as another?
 - ▶ One faith
 - Today: one as good as another?
 - ▶ One baptism
 - Today: different methods, purposes?
 - ▶ God is not the author of this confusion, of this diversity
 - Man is the author of diverse answers



Joshua 24:15

- ▶ Every man must choose
 - A rational decision
 - A decision to be followed with devotion
- ▶ There is only one right way
 - One way is not as good as another way
- ▶ If unwilling to choose the Lord God to serve, then choose any god
 - One of these is as good as another



Choose one of those other gods?

- gods back in Mesopotamia
 - God called Abraham away from them
 - You want those?
- gods of the Amorites
 - God defeated them
 - You want those?
- ▶ If a man rejects the service of God, he has a multiplicity of choices offered by the devil, but one is just as good as the other
 - None of them is any good!



Compare

- Those false gods are powerless to deliver,
 - but God is powerful to deliver and to bless
- Those false gods are degrading to the spirit of man leading to moral and spiritual decay,
 - but God blesses us with spiritual life
- Those false gods betray those who trust in them, not delivering what you thought you might get,
 - but God delivers what He promises

- Which do you want?



And so today, many choose the god of...

- Pleasure
 - James 5:5
- Money
 - 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- Self-indulgence
 - Ecclesiastes 2:10-11
- Feelings
 - Proverbs 14:12
- Galatians 6:7



Making the Right Choice

- The right choice is of free will
 - “...choose for yourselves...”
- The right choice should be made today
 - “...this day...”
- The right choice must be made regardless of what others do.
 - It requires resolve, determination, courage!
 - “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”
- The right choice is an encouragement to others
 - No doubt this was the case with Joshua!
 - Philippians 1:14



Making the Right Choice

- The right choice involves counting the cost
 - Luke 14:28-33
 - Real challenges
 - In times of conflict as well as in times of peace, ease, and common-place duty
 - The challenge of
 - Complacency
 - Compromise
- The right choice involves open commitment
 - Matthew 10:32-39



Making the Right Choice

- The right choice has very practical impacts
 - Israel was so ready to say “yes”
 - A “gospel” is sometimes preached today that has you come with no calls to repentance and sacrifice
 - This is not the true gospel
 - The true gospel says you put off the old man and put on the new man
- Ephesians 4:20-24
- Romans 13:11-14
- Colossians 3:1-3



Making the Right Choice

- When you choose the way of the Lord, it has practical impacts on...
 - Your thoughts
 - Philippians 4:8
 - Your words and actions
 - Ephesians 5:3-4
 - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - They are driven by this: “What does the Lord say?”



We Learn From Joshua's Farewell Address

- Serving the Lord
 - Fear of the Lord
 - Serving in sincerity & truth
 - Put away other gods – put off the old man
- Making the right choice
 - Everyone must make the choice
 - One right way
 - Outside the one true God, every other way is just as good as the other



We Learn From Joshua's Farewell Address

- The right choice
 - Free will
 - Urgent
 - Personal
 - An encouragement to others
 - Involves counting the cost
 - An open commitment
 - Has practical impacts



Say Today

“As for me and my
house, we will serve the
Lord”

