

“Choosing And Serving”

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Joshua 24:15

Theme: To encourage God's people to make right choices.

Introduction:

1. This is one of the last statements made by Joshua.
2. Made to and for the benefit of the twelve tribes.
3. In like manner, it will benefit us to study it.

Discussion:

- I. We have the privilege of investigating- Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 7:7.
 - A. We should be seeking to know the right way.
 - B. Our minds must be open to the reception of truth.
 - C. They were allowed to exercise their consciences.
 - D. The seeming right way can be wrong - Proverbs 16:25.
- II. We have the power, privilege and right of choice.
 - A. No doubt our conscience approves some form or system of worship.
 - B. It could be ignorant, vain or true worship.
 - C. What is the deciding factor in worship being acceptable to God?
 1. Matthew 5:9.
 2. Docility, detachment, determination.
- III. On what do you base your choice or worship?
 - A. Is it because of your kin people?
 - B. Is it because of politics or business?
 - C. It might be because of popularity.

- D. Suppose the apostles and other early Christians had argued along these lines.
- E. The reward, Romans 8:23.

IV. Our choice must be made now.

- A. They were to make a choice “this day.”
- B. Many converted on first sermon.
- C. Today is the day. Now is the accepted time. Why?
 - 1. The Jailer didn't wait until morning.
 - 2. The Eunuch said “here is water.”

V. Whom will you serve?

- A. One is your master - Matthew 23:8.
- B. *Whom* denotes one. One will you serve, who is that one?
- C. No man can serve two masters - Matthew 22:25.
- D. One who serves is a servant - Romans 6:17-18.
- E. In making choices something must be rejected.

VI. Joshua selected the one true God- 1 Corinthians 8:5-6.

- A. He could have had a false god for there were many.
 - 1. Today, there are many gods from which people might choose.
 - a. The Hindus have 330 million gods.
 - b. Gods such as coveteousness.
 - 2. But out of the thousands and thousands of gods available to Joshua, there was only one true God.
- B. There is still only one true God, Christ, Holy Spirit and only one body which is the church.
 - 1. It is through this one spiritual body that acceptable worship can be given to the one true God - Ephesians 3:21.
 - 2. We should be willing to forego the popular church, the church of our ancestors etc. for the church of the Bible.

- VII. Joshua and his household were of one mind.
- A. Joshua's decision included his household.
 - B. The people of God (those who are doing God's will) are of the same mind today.
 - C. God's will unites people, anything else divides.
 - D. If we make a choice today and base that choice upon the gospel of the Lord Jesus; then that choice will be acceptable to God.
 - E. Agrippa said, "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."
 - 1. Acts 26:28.
 - 2. Almost is not enough.

Conclusion:

- 1. We must make a choice.
- 2. It is a choice of whom we will *serve*.

Invitation:**Bibliography:**

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