

## DECISIONS/ CHOICES FORM OUR LIVES

### Joshua 24:15

**Introduction:** There are some things we do not choose in life: to be born, our parents, our heritage, the circumstances of our upbringing, to die or the time and conditions of our death, just to name a few. However there are countless things we do choose during our lives: live an honest, courageous life or a life of cowardice, dishonesty, idler or a hard worker. We decide what is important and what is not important, what we are going to do or not do. We make choices every day in our daily living, but whether we are aware of it or not, the choices we are making are forming our lives. Therefore it would be of the best interest of our lives if we took the time to consider the choices we make for they affect our lives.

### I. CHOICES THAT AFFECT OUR LIVES THE MOST

1. Strangely enough choices about our means of making a living is not the most important choice.
  - Nor is the choice of what kind of education we might obtain.
  - Nor is choosing the right mate for life.
2. The choice that affects our lives the most is **"What will we do with Jesus?"**
  - Remember when Moses came down the mountain from getting the Ten Commandments and the people were in an idol worship, Moses shouted out, **"Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me..."** He told them to make a choice, either Baal, or the Lord God.
  - When Joshua's life is about to end and his work for God is over as Israel is in the promised land, he calls all the people together and challenges them with the words, **"Choose you this day whom you will serve..."**
3. The greatest choice one can make in his/her life is what will he/she do with Jesus.
  - It is a necessary choice.
  - One has to make it for him/herself.
  - It is an urgent choice.
  - It is a reasonable choice.

### II. ONE MAKES CHOICES FOR HIS/HER OWN PERSONAL LIFE

- 1 Joshua didn't choose for the people to serve God, they had to choose each one for him/herself.
- 2 Jesus told the people that **"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."** (Matthew 6:24)
  - **"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.."** (Matthew 12:30)
- 3 There are choices in life that must be definite, either-or, this or that.
  - Legal or illegal - not both at the same time.
  - Married or single - can't be both at the same time.
  - Be for God - Be against God at the same time.
  - There is no neutral ground as far as Jesus Christ is concerned. EITHER He is one's savior or He is not. Either one is saved or he/she is not. Either one is going to heaven or he/she is not.

## II. NOBODY CAN MAKE CERTAIN CHOICES FOR YOU

1. Joshua's instructions were "*..Choose YOU this day whom ye will serve...*" He could order the people of Israel to do many things but he could not force any to honor God.
  - Each person had to choose if he/she was going to serve the Lord or not.
2. Teachers teach, show, lead, impress, and do their best to get across to their students what the lessons are all about, but it all ends with each student "doing his/her own thing," making his/her own decisions, giving his/her own answers.
3. Parents and friends often try to do things for their children and friends that the children and friends need to be doing themselves. Who among us has not done that at one time or other, made a decision for someone else?
  - Ultimately, children have to learn how to decide for themselves and accept the consequence of their choices. If friends are to remain friends, they have to be left alone to make their own decisions/choices.
4. Each of us is responsible for our own sins and our own decision concerning the Lord Jesus.
  - Who is responsible for those people in prisons and jails?
    - The Church? Their community? Their home? Crooked lawyers?
  - Each has to answer for his/her own choices.
  - Every soul is individually accountable/responsible to God.

## III. SOME CHOICES IN LIFE ARE URGENT

1. Remember that Joshua said, "*...Choose you THIS DAY whom you will serve...*"
  - Things dealing with God always need to be dealt with NOW, immediately.
  - "*Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts...*" (Hebrews 3:7-8)
  - "*Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*" (Prov.27:1)
  - "*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*" (2 Cor. 6:2)
2. One's choice about salvation is urgent because one does not know when his/her life will be ended.
  - Life is here and then in an instant it is gone.
  - Life is like a dream.
  - One of Satan's greatest, most successful ploys in causing people to die without the Lord Jesus is to convince them that there's plenty of time, no need to decide anything right now.
  - Now is the time to be saved!

## CONCLUSION:

1. Joshua reminded the people of all that God had done for them in the past and to make their decision on the basis of what God had already done for them.
2. The same thought applies to us today. Think about what God, the Father, His Son, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit have already done for you. Think of God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, the Holy Spirit's presence.
3. Being saved is a personal, decisive act and it's the most important choice a person can make.
4. Joshua said, "*...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord..*" What about you?