

“Choose Ye This Day”

Josh. 24:15

Introduction:

- A. Joshua’s farewell address to Israel.
 - 1. Reminds them of God’s past blessings (vv. 2-13).
 - 2. Challenges them to put away idols and serve God. (14-25).
- B. Joshua’s most famous words in verse 15:
 - 1. “Joshua Plaques” in countless homes.
 - 2. Verse highlighted in open Bibles in many homes.
- C. Joshua’s words contain some important implications about man and choosing:

Discussion:

I. God Has Given Man the *Power* to Choose.

- A. Theology - not God robs man of choice (Calvinism).
 - 1. Unconditional election, irresistible grace, unconditional security.
 - 2. “What is to be will be” in life’s events.
- B. If God does not allow man to choose then:
 - 1. He asks the impossible of him. (v. 22; cf. Deut. 30:19).
 - 2. He holds him accountable for the impossible (Adam & Eve - Gen 2,3).
 - 3. He attaches conditions to blessings that man cannot meet. (cf. Mt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17)

II. God Has Given Man the Right And Responsibility to Choose.

- A. One should choose after investigation and deliberation (cf. Acts 17:11)
 - 1. Having do all to stand, then stand (Eph. 6:13,14).
 - 2. Irresponsible to choose without studying issue.
 - 3. Irresponsible to choose on mere sentiment or emotion.
 - 4. Irresponsible to remain undecided on vital issues (cf. 1 Kings 18:21; Rev. 3:15,16).
 - a. Often because of cowardice or laziness.
 - b. Fence straddling and middle-of-the-roadism.
- B. One must accept the results of his choice. (Cf. Gal. 6:7)
 - 1. If decide on certain life-style — prepare to accept consequences.(cf. Rom. 6:23).
 - 2. If decide to be a Christian — be willing to accept all the results.(Mk. 10:30; Heb. 11:25).
- C. One must make important choices daily — cf. “Choose .. *this day*.”
 - 1. Each Lord’s Day.
 - 2. Each Class or gospel meeting.
 - 3. Each Pay Day — Spend all on self or give some to the Lord.
 - 4. Each day — Conduct life as Christian or as world dictates.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us recognize our options — Many wrong ways (“gods”), one right way (“the Lord”).
- B. Let us recognize our choices affect others — “Me and my house.”
- C. Let us recognize that choices can be of eternal import — get the facts.
- D. Let us recognize that when we have the facts no decision is the wrong decision.