

“CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY”

TEXT: Joshua 24:14-24

INTRODUCTION: There is a sad irony in the fact that the whole world applauds Olympic athletes who deny themselves caffeine, alcohol, career training, and social life for years to “go for the gold”; while a sold-out, single-minded, self-denying Christian is considered a “fanatic.” The desperate need in every age is for men who will resolutely stand for God and truth, leaving all consequences to the One they serve. Vacillation and cowardice are the curse and bane of every era.

Such a man of decisiveness was Joshua, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was fixed in His resolve to do the Father’s will. Let us take a closer look at this man who challenged the double-mindedness and lukewarmness of his day, and may we decide with him to follow the Lord fully with all our house.

OUTLINE: Joshua’s words in verse 15 clarify the issues involved in deciding for God and for right.

I. The recognition of a divinely-given CAPABILITY

- A.** The power of choice was first given in Eden (Gen. 2:16, 17).
- B.** The power of choice implies the inevitability of choice (1 Kgs. 18:21).

II. The registration of a determinate CHOICE

- A.** It is the nature of man to serve someone or something (Lk. 11:23).
- B.** The choice of whom we serve is a matter of life and death (Deut. 30:19; Rom. 6:23).
- C.** A public avowal of our choice is demanded by Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).

III. The results of a definite CHANGE

(v. 31, Judg. 2:7)

- A.** The choice made in a moment’s time has eternal consequences (Heb. 12:16,17).
- B.** Our consistent example has great power to influence others.
- C.** We do not choose what is true and right unless we put away what is false and wrong (vv. 19, 23).

CONCLUSION: *“Choose you this day”...*

- 1)** To embrace Jesus Christ and His way of forgiveness. He must be received as the sovereign Lord (Rom. 10:9,10).
- 2)** To follow Jesus fully. “No reserves. No retreats. No regrets” (Wm. Borden)
Jesus would rather that you be “cold or hot” than that you be “lukewarm”

Rev. 3:15,16). How can you be neutral in the battle between truth and lie? How can you serve two masters at once (Matt. 6:24)? Will you say from your heart, "Take the world, but give me Jesus"?