

"Choose Ye This Day Whom Ye Will Serve"

Joshua 24:15. S. Side, 12-20-42

1-Shechem was not only a place of great natural beauty, but one around which lingered memories in harmony with the circumstances of the time.

1-Here Abraham first pitched his tent, and raised an altar to God. Gen.12:6.....

2-Here, probably under the same oak, Jacob buried the "strange gods" Gen. 35:4.

1-Jacob counselled his household:

1-It is well when heads of families have the ability as well as inclination to direct their children and dependants in the duties of religion.

2-The service that you render unto God is a matter of FREE PERSONAL CHOICE.

1-They were called upon to decide:

1-In favor of a service to God, or service to the false gods of Egypt.

2-There was no middle course open to them, there could be no compromise, it must be one thing or the other--LET THEM CHOOSE.

3-Substantially the same alternative is open to every man in every age.

3-It is a choice determined by rational considerations:

1-If we would serve Him at all, His service must be our free unfettered choice.

2-Paul said: Romans 12:1, "Christian religion is our reasonable service"

3-The love of Christ flaming within the body makes it no longer a dull lump of clay, BUT AN ILLUMINED SPIRITUAL TEMPLE.

4-True religion is not a galvanized life.

1-The mere saying of prayers.

2-Attendance ONLY at God's house.

3-The avoidance of ill places and company, is a dead and worthless sacrifice if unaccompanied:::by love and devotion.

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5-Joshua claims Their life for God-"Now therefore serve him!" Joshua 24:14.....

1-The only wise and the only rational plan of life is the service of God.

2-Conscience requires it--as the only right course.

1-SERVING GOD:

1-Every law will be kept.

2-Every duty done.

3-Every claim met.

4-Every wrong avoided.

3-Gratitude requires it:

1-God delivered them from Egyptian bondage.

2-God led them, 2-helped them, 3-enriched them, 4-Gave them liberty, gave them victory, and gave them a home.

5-In addition to these national blessing, he has to each individual given:

1-Life, faculty, joys, home-loves, duties that dignified, and comforts that gladdened life. (The instinct of gratitude is to ask, What shall I render to the Lord for these benefits so graciously bestowed upon me)

6-Wisdom should constrain us to serve him:

1-Serve self---and server and served are both ruined...Dr. Dan Crawford tells us in his book;"Thinking Black," That travelling in Central Africa is often very difficult, because the trail is often lost in the tall grass that grows to a height of 12 or 15 ft. The negro custom makes the children squeeze through first, the human brooms as they are called, have to run the risk of being pounced upon first by the hungry heena or leopard. They get their bodies deluged with the cold dew. They are ministers to those who follow. The negro Song: Lead thou the way in the wet grass drear, Then, only then, art thou pioneer; for Mr. First must get all the woes, That Mr. Second may find repose.

*serve God. and God is pleased. and we are safe.*

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