

CALVARY MISSIONARY CHURCH, OWEN SOUND
2022 02 06 – Pastor Don Boyd

SERMON: “AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.”

Joshua 24:15. KEY VERSE: *“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.”*

At the beginning of his ‘career’ as leader of the People of Israel, Joshua was given specific instructions – the exhortations that we find in Joshua 1:6-9 – instructions that applied, not only to Joshua, not only to the Israelites, but to us today. Here they are in a paraphrased nutshell: “Be strong; be courageous. Be careful to do according to all the law; do not turn away from it. Do not let the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it constantly and be careful to obey its every word.”

As we jump ahead approximately 26 years in Joshua’s life, we find that he had remained faithful to all that the Lord had commanded him. Under his leadership, the people also obeyed God. Joshua, Chapters 23 and 24 are Joshua’s ‘swan song’ – his parting exhortation to his people. In these chapters he reviews their history and the story of all that God had done for them.

Key Points:

23:3 – *“You have seen all that the LORD has done.... It is he who fought for you.”* God had given them a great deal of the land; they were now living in an era of peace. But there was more land to inherit.

23:5 – God will continue to drive Israel’s enemies out so they could inherit EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAD PROMISED.

23:6 – Be firm; be careful to do all that is written in the book of the law. Do not turn aside from it. (Sound familiar?)

23:7 – Keep yourselves separate from the pagan nations that surround you; do not inter-marry with them or worship their idols.

23:8, 11 – Cling to the Lord, your God. Love the Lord your God.

23:14 – Joshua tells them he is dying and exhorts them to recognize that God had kept every promise He'd given them. Not one word had failed.

23:15,16 – Just as God's words of promise had been fulfilled, the consequences prescribed for their disobedience would also be fulfilled.

24:1-13 – Joshua reviewed all of Israel's history, starting with their forefather, Terah, a pagan who lived in the land of Haran in the East, all the way up to the day that they had gathered before Joshua.

24:14 – “Fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; put away your false gods,”

24:15 – Choose whom you will serve; God (Jehovah) or the gods of your forefathers or the gods of the Amorites. Choose! This is followed by Joshua's determined declaration: *“As for me and my house, we WILL serve the Lord.”*

There is power in the bold declaration of a person's decision. There is also prophetic power. Joshua declared that his HOUSE would also serve the Lord. He sets an example for us. We can declare publicly our decision to serve the Lord; we can also declare it prophetically, even if our children are not following the Lord yet.

24:24 – The people all made the same declaration: “WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.”

24:25-27 – Joshua set up a ‘stone of remembrance’ to remind the people of their decision.

24:29 – Joshua died at the age of 110, shortly after he made the declaration to serve the Lord.

What a wonderful summary of a believer’s life – right to the end, HE SERVED HIS GOD FAITHFULLY.

OUR CHALLENGES TODAY:

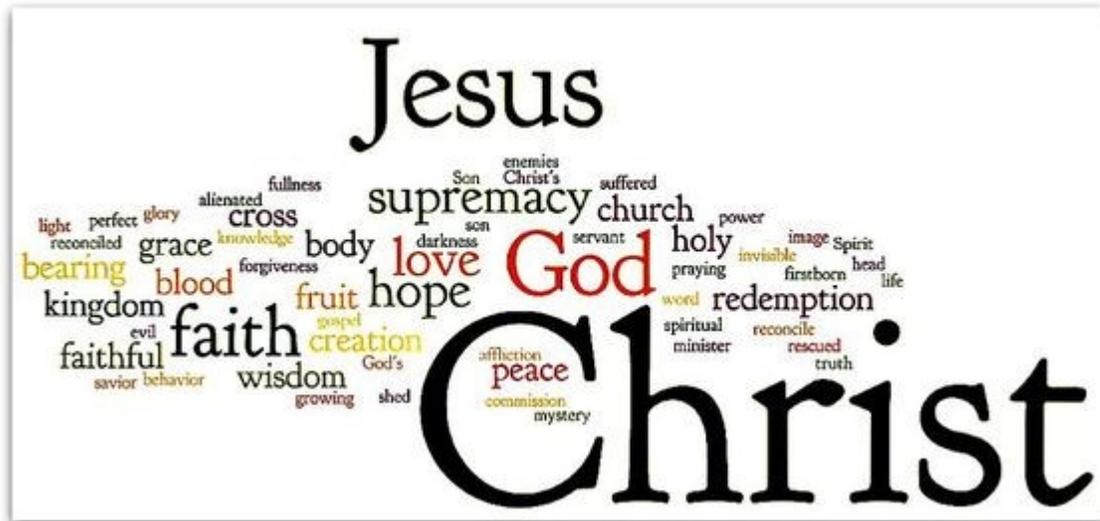
Have you made that determined declaration, “AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD”?

Are you keeping the Word, ‘in your mouth’ and meditating it ‘day and night’?

Is there any area of your beliefs, attitudes, speech, or behaviours that is not in line with the Word?

If we are wise, we want to avoid any of the consequences that might come our way should we fail to live in obedience to the Word. Conversely, when we obey the Lord, we can confidently expect Him to fulfill every promise He has made to His people.

I wonder what promises or blessings God might have for us – ones that He is just waiting to fulfill on our behalf...



Alive in the Spirit

Anchored in the Word