

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord. And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

Hello family,

In **Joshua 24** God speaks to all the tribes of Israel through Joshua and reminds them of the mighty things He has done for them. Its a pretty long list of amazing things. He reminds them that He has given them land for which they did not labor, cities which they did not build, and that they dwell in them, and also that they eat of olive groves of which they did not plant. (**Joshua 24:13**)

In the next **verse 14** the tribes of Israel are given the instruction to **"fear the Lord"**, which means to be in awe of Him, having the reverence and respect for Him that He so deserves.

In that same verse the instruction continues with the command to **"serve Him in sincerity and truth"**.

This 'serving' doesn't mean just in areas of life that are easy or convenient, but instead means to give the Lord and only the Lord one's full allegiance.

All in, all the time for the Lord.

Not bouncing back and forth from God to self, back to God, then to something else, then back to God, etc. This requires putting away all those things that can get in the way of serving the Lord with sincerity and truth. For the tribes of Israel at this time it was the little 'g' gods that their fathers had served on the other side of the river and in Egypt. For us today there are a lot of things including self and selfishness.

In **verse 15** the instruction continues.

"If it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve."

We have these same kinds of problems today. Some people believe that parts of God's Word are "unfair", "cruel", or "outdated", or "not applicable to me", etc.

But just like in Joshua's day, everybody has to choose God or those other things.

There is no middle ground. Someone might say "wow pastor, that's very harsh".

Maybe so, but it is true. Just sayin'.

Joshua said it well at the end of **verse 15** after reminding them of their options:

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

Choose to serve the Lord with sincerity and truth. Don't look for options.

Lets make sure that we stay the course for Him, not wavering no matter what.

All in, All the time. Fully committed to Him and to doing things His way.

Let's remember all that the Lord has done for us, all that He is doing now,

and all that He has promised and will do. This is an extremely long list.

Lets continue to give Him that love, appreciation, honor, respect, and loyalty that He wants and deserves from us.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Dave Wolff