

Our Choice

Joshua 24:14-15 & 23:6-8

Joshua 24:15-16

- 14 “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! 15 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.”

Follow the Law

- Joshua 23:6 - Therefore, be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

- Courage – *chazaq* (khaw-zak') – Fasten upon; to seize; courage, courageous, strength or steadfastness.
- Obedience is not just the refraining from sin, but it is also actively doing what is right and commanded by God.

- Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will. – Bonhoeffer
- We do all the Law regarding the “don’ts” but leave out all the “do’s”.

- Daniel 3:16-18 - ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

- Philippians 1:27-28 - ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

Do Not Associate with People's Practices

- Joshua 23:7 - *7 and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them,*

- 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 - ⁹When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. ¹⁰But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. (NLT)

- We will overcome the world, or the world will overcome us.
- The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. – Moody

- Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, or sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

- Hebrews 11:24-26 - ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- Joshua 23:7 - ⁷ Make sure you do not associate with the other people still remaining in the land. Do not even mention the names of their gods, much less swear by them or serve them or worship them. (NLT)

Cling to God

- Joshua 23:8 - ⁸but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day

- Cleave in the Hebrew is *dabaq* (daw-bak') and it means to impinge (meaning to encroach upon); cling or adhere; catch by pursuit; to be joined together.

- 1 Timothy 6:11-12 - ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Clinging to God cannot be accomplished without love.
- John 14:15 - 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.
- John 14:21 - 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

- Psalm 116:1-2 - I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.
^2 Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! (NLT)