

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SERVE YE THE LORD

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SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOSHUA 24:1-19**

Joshua 24:14, Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the July 17, 2022 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. I want to highlight a verse so often misquoted and misunderstood.
- b. **Joshua 24:15, And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**
- c. This verse is often misrepresented to mean whether or not the sinner is to make a decision to come to Christ.
- d. Careful reading of this verse gives the people a choice to serve the gods of their fathers which were on the other side of the flood, or the god of the Ammorites who dwelt in the land. It was a choice between two idol gods.
- e. This verse does not contain one thing that will tell us to choose the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.
- f. When we add the last portion of this verse, we find Joshua was able to make a clear choice.
- g. He was not going to serve idol gods, and he says, "**As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**"
- h. **Joshua 24:16** tells us, **And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods.**
- i. This brings us face to face with our text today. **Joshua 24:14, Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.**

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.
 1. **Joshua 24:1-13, And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. 2: And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwell on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. 3: And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. 4: And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. 5: I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out. 6: And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea. 7: And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwell in the wilderness a long season. 8: And I brought you into the land of the**

Amorites, which dwell on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you. 9: Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: 10: But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand. 11: And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand. 12: And I sent the hornet before you, which drave them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow. 13: And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

2. When God called Abraham, He called him out of a home of idolatry; He was told to leave Ur and his family, because Terah was an idol worshiper.
3. God called Him away from idolatry to deal with him and make a nation of him through which the Messiah would come into the world. **Galatians 4:4, But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,**
4. Unsaved people cannot serve God. **1 Corinthians 2:14, But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**
5. Contrary to what people in America believe today, we cannot go to our Bible and read a couple verses and make everything okay with God.
6. People don't understand that we do not have the capability to serve God unless we have a proper relationship with Him. **Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 10:9, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
7. **Psalms 7:11** tells us **God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.** We are required to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ for Him to hear our prayers. **Philippians 2:10, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**
8. **Psalms 66:18** says, **If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.**
9. It is our spiritual state that causes us to be able to serve God.
10. **Ephesians 2:1** says, **And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved**
11. **Romans 3:9** says, **What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.**
12. The unsaved person's mind is always leaning toward self-will, self-seeking, lust, enmity, pride and other evils. Enmity is hostility and a state of deep-seated ill-will.
13. **Romans 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
14. **Romans 8:6-10, For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10: And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**
15. We cannot serve God unless we are saved and born again. Salvation is of the Lord. There is nothing man can do that will provide salvation that will allow him to have a relationship with God. **Jonah 2:9, But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.** **Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
16. Jesus said in **John 14:6, . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**
17. **Acts 4:12, Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

b. Serve ye the LORD.

1. **Joshua 24:14, Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.**
2. Believers outside the will of God that are not studying His Word cannot serve Him effectively.
2. We find many preachers and teachers who get so busy they have little time to learn at the feet of the Lord Jesus.
3. In our generation we tend to read a lot of books about the Bible and what men have said about it, but we must come to grips with the fact that we need the Preserved Word of God.
4. I stick with the 1611 King James Bible because I believe it truly speaks to the heart of men and women.
5. I have seen the Word of God work in the heart of those who were very hardhearted, and some whom we thought would never be converted.
6. I am reminded that the Bible says in **Psalms 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.***
7. It is the Word of God that does the work in the life of those who are unsaved, unconverted and are carnal Christians. **John 15:3, Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

c. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

1. **Joshua 24:15-19, And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 16: *And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; 17: For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: 18: And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwell in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God. 19: And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.***
2. If we are not aligned and anchored in a local New Testament Church, we cannot serve the Lord effectively. **1 Timothy 3:15, But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
3. God has ordained the local New Testament to propagate the Gospel. **Acts 2:47, *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.***
4. He gives us a commission to go into the highways and hedges and compel people to come to Christ.
5. All the other activities we are involved in need to emanate from the local church. We need to take our rightful place in our church, realize what our spiritual gifts are and be about our Father's business.
6. He has called us to do a work, which means our time, our talent and resources are all required.
7. Questions!
 - a. What are you doing to make sure your local church is in a position to propagate the gospel?
 - b. Are you giving of your resources?
 - c. Are you giving of your time?
 - d. Are you giving of your talent?
 - e. Are you exercising your spiritual gift in your local church ministry?
8. If the answer to these questions are yes, then you can serve the Lord. We must know God before we can effectively serve Him. **Philippians 3:10, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;***
9. If the answer to these questions is no, then ye can cannot serve God and mammon at the same time. **Luke 16:13, *No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.* 15: And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the**

sight of God.

10. There are **eighteen** spiritual gifts given to us in Scripture. **Seven** were temporary and **eleven** are permanent for the Church. The temporary gifts were put away when the perfect Preserved Word of God came. **1 Corinthians 13:9-10, For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10: But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.** Spiritual gifts are reflected in the following Scripture passages. **Romans 12:6-8, Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7: Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8: Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.** Ephesians 4:11, **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.** 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, **For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. 9: To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. 10: To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.** 1 Corinthians 12:28-30, **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29: Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30: Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. I have given you some nuggets from the Word of God today.
- b. I have tried to teach you some things people have propagated that are not correct according to the Preserved Word of God.
- c. I challenge you with a verse from the Preserved Word of God in **Acts 16:31, And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**
- d. Jesus is ready to save you today.
- e. Unconverted person, if you do not know Christ as your personal saviour, come forward when the invitation is given and we will show you what God's Word has to say about salvation.
- f. Carnal Christian, if you are outside the will of God and holding resentment in your heart or have hate, bitterness, evil, speaking gossip, or any of those wrathful things, you need to come to the altar and confess your sin, and restore a proper fellowship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- g. For the Church member today who is sitting in the pew and have a spiritual gift that God has given you, you need to exercise that spiritual gift.
- h. All believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. The reward or lack thereof, will be based on how effectively you have exercised your spiritual gift in the local church.
- i. Are you building on the foundation gold, silver and precious stone or wood, hay and stubble? **2 Corinthians 5:10** tells us, **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**
- j. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- k. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- l. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- m. Please stand.

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