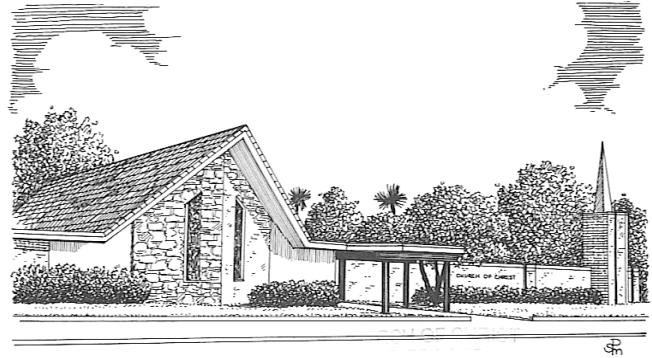


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August 4, 2024



Palm Springs Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

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Choose Whom You Will Serve

We all make choices everyday. Many of them are rather routine, not terribly significant. What will I wear today? What do I want for lunch? But some choices can have life-changing effects. Marriage. Buy a home. A job change. A decision to change locations. After leading the people of Israel into the promised land, and then through battle after battle to secure the land, Joshua called upon the people to make the most important decision of their lives: *“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...”* (**Josh. 24:15**).

Joshua instructed the Israelites that to choose to serve God would have to be a choice made with absolute sincerity. *“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth...”* (**Josh. 24:14**). We cannot give God lip service. John the apostle wrote, *“...let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”* (**1 Jn. 3:18**). As Jesus said, we must love God all of our heart, soul and mind (**Matt. 22:37**).

It is easy to make a verbal commitment, even to feel sincere as we make it. However, actions must back up our words. Joshua called upon the people to put away the idols that their fathers had served (**Josh. 24:14-15**). It’s stunning to realize that, even after forty years in the wilderness and having been blessed by God with victory after victory in possessing the land, they were still mixing idol worship with their worship to God. If they were going to choose to serve God they must purposefully get rid of all of their idols. Anybody who chooses to walk with God in faithfulness must make up their mind to lay aside anything that might hinder them from in that commitment (**Heb. 12:1-2**).

The people acknowledged that God brought them and their fathers out of the bondage they were under in Egypt, showed them great signs and sustained them in the wilderness, and it was God Who gave them victory over their enemies. They chose, therefore, to commit themselves to serve God alone: *“We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.”* (**Josh. 24:16-18**).

Joshua warned the people that they must follow through on the commitment they were making. They could not go back to their idols, or God would punish them severely. They could not just talk the talk, they would have to walk the walk. They affirmed their choice: *“No, but we will serve the LORD!”* (**Josh. 24:19-21**).

Joshua then told the people, *“You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him.”* They responded, *“We are witnesses!”* (**Josh. 24:22**).

On that basis Joshua instructed them to put away the idols that were among them and turn their hearts *“to the LORD God of Israel.”* (**Josh. 24:23**). They declared once again, *“The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!”* (**Josh. 24:24**).

The people of Israel chose, emphatically, to serve God. For awhile they remained true to their choice. But after awhile they slipped away, and God punished them just as Joshua had warned that He would. You need to *choose whom you will serve*. Make up your mind. Choose, and stay true to your choice...

Adapted from an article by: Gary L. Hutchens (Sunny Slope Church of Christ)

We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
To give glory to God
To be unified in reaching others

*Welcome to the
Palm Springs Church of Christ*



God's grace shatters any darkness consuming us and allows heavenly light to shine through. Rejoice, brothers and sisters, and reach out with a warm welcome to all!

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)"

Pray for our Church family:

Please continue to pray for the improved health of: Mae Britton, Lynette Brink, Sue Collins, Byron Isaac, Brenda Jones, Roy McDonald, Dail Paramore, and Francis Pati.

Pray for family & friends:

Please continue prayers for Amy Miller's father as he continues to recover at home from a stroke and for Tammy D'Arcy as she continues treatment for breast cancer. Pray for the improved health of: Keith & Lisa Britton, Kerry Britton, Kathy's husband Kevin, Mary Fields, Derek Fields, Mike Parker, Dail's friends Marie C. and Teddy K.

First responders: Please keep those who are serving their communities in your prayers: Alisha K. (EMT); Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (Patrol Officers); Dr. Janice Massey of N.C.

Military:

Jeff Mercer's son-in-law Brandon Deussenberry and Kathy's family T. Burgess and T. Cairo.

Prayer Warriors Corner

Father, thank You for Your perfect love. Please help me to praise You for it and to share it with others today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Daily Bread: James Banks

Read: Psalm 145:8-20

News:

Pray for those who are traveling during this time and please continue to pray for Lynette and family as they mourn the loss of Lynette's mom, Wanda.

Please continue to pray for Nilene's brother, Wayne

Duncan: Wayne suffered 3rd degree burns on his left foot and leg. He is now stable and has been moved to a rehabilitation center. Wayne is a long serving member of the church and attends his local congregation in Grants Pass.

In Search of the Lord's Way: Watch excellent Bible-based messages every Sunday, 7:30 a.m., on KCWQ, VHF channel 2 or UHF channel 26. Also Available ANY TIME online with You Tube. Just enter: SearchTVMinistry and pick a sermon. <https://youtu.be/FxMzZ6ZKMdQ>

The Community Food Bank: Peanut Butter and Ramen packs are where the greatest need is at this time. Other non-perishable items are: soups, canned vegetables, canned beans, 1 lb. packs of rice or beans, canned tomatoes, canned pasta sauce and quart size storage bags. Thank you for your continued support, your donation is greatly appreciated.

Your treasure

Jesus taught that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (**Matt. 6:21**). So, the question is, "Where is your treasure?" Note a few things about this. First, Jesus says you only have one treasure (not more than one). A few verses later He emphasizes that "no one can serve two masters" (6:24). You only have one master. You only have one treasure. Think about that. Second, note that you are the one who determines what (and where) your treasure is. That which your heart treasures identifies what your treasure is. Third, realize that there are only two possible treasures. There are not dozens of possibilities. There are only two. Your treasure is either earth or its heaven. And, it CANNOT be a little bit of both.

So, back to the question. Where is your treasure? This is not just a random topic. This is the most important question you will ever answer. You have to decide—is my job, my money, my car, my toys, my gadgets, my house, my hobbies, my family, my relationships, my plans, etc. more valuable to me right now than heaven? How is my life answering that question?
David Sproule; PBLCOG - Thought for the Day

Sermon title: "THE CHOICE"



Birthdays:

Blake Axsom: 7/15
Yanira Fuentes: 7/18

Wedding Anniversaries:

Blake & Annie Axsom: 7/19

Bible study: Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship service: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

WORSHIP ORDER

WELCOME / OPENING PRAYER

642: Let the Lower Lights Be Burning (1-3)

383: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (1-3)

COMMUNION & OFFERING: 1 Cor. 11:23-26

851: I'll Fly Away (1-3)

Brief Intermission

989: Soon and Very Soon (1-3)

SERMON

129: Amazing Grace (1, 2 & 4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING PRAYER

Sermons on line: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the "sermons" category at the top of the page.

<http://www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com>

Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado