



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

As For Me and My House!

Focus Verse: Joshua 25:15 - 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.

Lesson Text: Joshua 24:1-24

Truth About God: God wants us to remain firmly committed to Him.

Truth For My Life: Despite past victories, I must continually commit myself to the Lord.

When Joshua summoned the Israelites he told them of God's blessings to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He also recounted the miracle of Exodus and reminded the people of their victories. Then he commanded the Israelites to get rid of their idols. Moreover, Joshua challenged the people to serve the Lord. He demanded they make a choice. He listed for them three choices: the God of Abraham, the false gods of Abraham's ancestors, or the gods of the land in which they now lived. He declared this day was going to be much different. *"Choose you this day whom ye will serve"* (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua's challenge was bold and direct. But before giving them a chance to answer for themselves, Joshua boldly declared, *"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15). **Joshua's question still hangs in the air for you to answer: whom will you serve?** The time for wavering is over. When that day dawns, what will your answer be? Will it be demonstrated in your walk? In your talk? Our choice will always be followed by our actions. Our actions truly testify what choice we made.

Despite past victories, we must continually commit ourselves to the Lord. We battle different adversaries than those Israel battled. We are tempted by different gods than they were. Our weapons are not carnal. We do not fight with flesh and blood. We do not fight against nations or clans. Neither do we advance on and conquer physical territories. The gods that grab our hearts are not carved of wood or fashioned of brass, but our temptations and battles are just as real as theirs were.

As the redeemed children of the New Covenant, we are fighting the good fight of faith. As we continue in this war, we will fight many hard-fought battles. **We must conquer enemies of bitterness and unforgiveness.** We will fight against carnal appetites of lust, greed, and worldliness. Idols of entertainment and materialism will present themselves as alternatives to seeking first the kingdom of God.

God calls us to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith distilled to its simplest form is simply complete trust in and obedience to God and His Word no matter the outlook. Paul wrote to the church in Rome and declared, *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith"* (Romans 1:17). God's righteousness is ultimately revealed when we who have been justified by faith proceed to live by faith. We live from faith to faith.

Unlike Israel entering into the promises of God, we must never become complacent. Although the Israelites could boast of their past victories, Joshua issued a present challenge: choose this day. We must always be grateful for and celebrate our past victories achieved through faith. **God's promises achieved through faith are worthy of celebration, but we must keep the finish line in sight.** We are not there yet. Our race is not completely run. The final bell of the fight of faith has yet to ring. We must take the fight seriously until the very end.

Our race of faith also begins at a steeple: a local church. Our race is filled with many obstacles and pitfalls to overcome. It is long and tiring, but we have in sight another steeple, or pinnacle. It is the eternal city of New Jerusalem. As we near the finish line of this race, we must stay engaged and focused on finishing well. **We cannot afford to be distracted so near the end of our race.**