

THE PRESSURE OF CHOICE

JOSHUA 24

Text: Joshua 24:13-15

(Josh 24:13-15 KJV) 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. {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. {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.

Introduction:

Life is made up of choices. Harvard Professor Harvey Cox said, "Not to decide, is to decide not to."

Sometimes the decision to do nothing is wise. But you can't make a career of doing nothing. Freddie Fulcrum weighed everything too carefully. He would say, "On the one hand... but then, on the other," and his arguments weighed out so evenly he never did

anything. When Freddie died, they carved a big zero on his tombstone. If you decide to fish -- fine. Or, if you decide to cut bait -- fine. But if you decide to do nothing, you're not going to have fish for dinner.

Another story I read the other day concerned this ladies husband. She was telling someone, "Recently my husband was faced with a decision affecting his career and our way of life as a family. Making the decision was agony, and when it was made we were still tormented by doubts. Then a dear friend passed on to us some words that had been given to her husband years ago by a former president of Bowdoin College. When a decision has been made and the die is cast, then, said this wise gentleman, murder the alternatives.

Generally every choice that you and I make, there is some pressure that goes along with that choice. The reason is, and hopefully you are aware of this, the choice you make today will affect where you'll be, and how you'll be tomorrow. Choosing right can make all the difference tomorrow.

Joshua issued and offered a choice in our text.

Notice:

1. THIS IS A PERSONAL APPEAL (CHOOSE YOU)

- A. This choice is not to be determined by your friends.
- B. This choice is not decided by your surroundings.
- C. This choice is not dictated by anyone.

2. THIS IS A PARAMOUNT APPEAL (IMPORTANCE OF YOUR CHOICE)

- A. Right choices leads to righteous living.
- B. Wrong choices leads to worldly living.
- C. The choice is your; which will it be.

3. THIS IS A PRESSING APPEAL. (IMMEDIATENESS OF YOUR CHOICE)

- A. This choice must be answered today.
- B. This choice can't wait.
- C. This choice will determine a number of things.

1. Choices

- a. Salvation ... Eternal Life
- b. Service ... Crowns in Heaven
... Souls in Heaven

4. THE URGENCY OF THE RIGHT CHOICE

- A. Persons are needed in God's service. (Choose you)
- B. Persons will serve something, cause, or master. (Choose you....whom ye will serve)
- C. Persons should never permit the choice or the service to cause delay. (Choose you this day whom ye will serve)

Close:

Your devotions lie somewhere at this very moment is it with God?