

Speaker: Simon Sherwin
Date: 3rd June 2012
Reading: Deuteronomy 30:11-20, Joshua 24:14-15
Subject: Choices

There are times we have to make choices. Some decisions are very important. We stand at crossroads and must decide which way to go. The children of Israel were stood at a crossroads. They knew the consequences of each decision.

Choices came when there was about to be a change of leadership. The first was as they waited to cross Jordan, the second was as Joshua was about to die.

Moses gave them the choice between life and death, blessing and cursing. A choice of a pathway for life and destination. A choice of obeying God and doing what he asked them to do.

At the end of Joshua's life he asked them where their allegiance would be. It is a choice that has to be made. Are you going to obey God and be obedient to His word?

Are you going to pledge allegiance to God and to His Son?
Are you going to put your trust in the Lord Jesus and live a life proving the reality of salvation?
Are you going to stand with Him or with a world who rejected Him?
Are you going to step out on a pathway of obedience to His word? You have a decision make which is followed by a life that proves we are obedient to His word.

It is not a choice between serving God and being free. We are not our own to do what we like with. The Bible tells us we are sinners, our consciences tell us when we have done things that are wrong. God has given our conscience to us as a monitor, when we haven't done what we should and when we have done what we shouldn't.

In what we say, do and think we are sinners.

“[Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin](#)” (John 8:34). The message of the gospel is you don't need to be servants of sin. Paul writes, “[But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you](#)” (Romans 6:17). The people had realised what they were and that freedom only came through standing in allegiance to God. The only true freedom in this world is in the service of Christ. “[If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed](#)” (John 8:36)

“[Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest](#)”(Mat 11:28). We can have rest, peace and forgiveness through the person of the Lord Jesus and what He has done at Calvary.

Sin is not an easy taskmaster. It gets heavier the more we get into it.

Service to Christ means opposition to the world; letting people know we are different.

“[Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution](#)” (2 Timothy 3:12) but consider the alternative. Far rather suffer what world throws at me while being sure of eternal life than standing with world and facing the wrath of God. Where were the gods of Jericho and Canaan when the God of heaven came in? Are you going to forsake that God and turn away from Him?

God has done so much because the Lord Jesus Christ has come. No one has done more for you than

the God of heaven who has provided salvation in his Son. Which way are you going to go? Who are you going to follow? Who are you going to obey?

Christians are those who love God, why? “**Because He first loved us**” (1 John 4:19). He has gone to great lengths that we might be saved. He wants to be your Saviour, to guide you through life and bring you safely home to heaven.

“**But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 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**” (Romans 10:8-9)

You must pledge allegiance to Him as Lord and believe in your heart. It is the simplest thing imaginable but takes some doing. If He is Lord of my life He will be in control of every aspect of my life.

We must believe He rose again. A dead Saviour is no Saviour at all. We know the work of Christ is sufficient because God hath raised Him. “**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**” (Hebrews 7:25) Without Christ no salvation without resurrection no Christianity.

“**what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul**” (Deut 10:12). First thing He calls us to do is obey the gospel.

Have you done it?

It will mean you will know blessing of God. The joy of God's salvation. Why would you choose death and evil yet so many do every day?

What is it that is more important than obedience to God?

“**Come that might have life and have it more abundantly**” (John 10:10). What is it we want to hang on to that is more than that? Is it really worth it?

Life is only found in Him. Your physical life is a gift from Him and one day He will take it away.

“**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent**” (John 17:3)