

## RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

### **THE CHOICE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

Joshua 24:14-28

Jeff Schreve

*"And I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant. Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:13-15*

### **Have you made the all-important choice to serve the LORD?**

#### **1. It is a personal choice.**

\* Only you can choose for you.

#### **2. It is a rivaled choice.**

A. Many choose to serve the god of money and materialism.

B. Many choose to serve the god of pleasure and indulgence.

*He who loves pleasure will become a poor man. Proverbs 21:17*

C. Many choose to serve the god of self.

#### **3. It is an obvious choice.**

*And the people answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God." Joshua 24:16-18*

A. The LORD is the loving God.

B. The LORD is the almighty God.

C. The LORD is the only God.

*"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me ...." Isaiah 46:9*

#### **4. It is a critical choice.**

##### **A. You cannot serve Him along with other gods.**

*You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4*

##### **B. You dare not put off the decision for tomorrow.**

*"Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and we will obey His voice." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, lest you deny your God." Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance. Joshua 24:23-28*

**Will you make a covenant this day?**