

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec 2016 Joshua 1:1-18
- 2) 11 Dec Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
- 3) 18 Dec Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
- 4) 25 Dec Christmas Message Luke 1:26-38
- 5) 01 Jan 2017 Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
- 6) 08 Jan **Joshua 23:1 – 24:33**
- 7) 15 Jan Sanctity of Life Prov 24:10-12; Mark 10:46-49
- 8) 22 Jan Judges 1:1 – 5:31
- 9) 29 Jan Judges 6:1 – 12:15
- 10) 05 Feb Judges 13:1 – 16:31
- 11) 12 Feb Judges 17:1 – 21:25
- 12) 19 Feb Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
- 13) 26 Feb Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- Final words from Joshua – “If you want to prosper – be diligent to love the Lord your God, so chose this day who you will worship”
- If we know what to do – such as speak kindly to our spouse, give as we should, obey good laws of the land – why is it hard to do?
- Israel also had some simple choices to make – choose the easy road or the hard road – life or death. How hard could it be?

Passage	Comments
Joshua 23:1-16	<p>Challenge to Remain Faithful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-10. Even though God ultimately won the battles for Israel, Israel still needed to fight, to kill, and to pillage and plunder as if victory depended on their efforts • Principle. Even though God promises to meet all of our needs, we still need to work hard as if victory depends on us, yet trust God to deliver the results • vv11-13. Be diligent to love God totally – or else. God's Covenant Relationship with Israel – God established a unique covenant relationship with Israel, which is tied to the land of Israel. If Israel (which consisted of true believers and non-believers) loves God, God blesses the nation; if Israel rejects God, God destroys Israel – except for a remnant. God's Covenant Relationship with Christians. Since we are adopted or grafted into Israel (as true believers) we also enjoy the eternal blessings of God. But as believers with no ties to the land of Israel, we will not experience the curses of God, though, we stand to be disciplined and lose rewards if we disobey God • vv14-16. “I am going the way of all the earth...” Principle. We can never be so important that God cannot raise someone else up to accomplish His will. Everyone dies (Moses, Joshua, Peter, Paul...) with few exceptions (Enoch, Elijah, Raptured Saints)
24:1-13	<p>Challenge to Remember the Lord's Faithfulness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua recaps Israel's history to the eye witnesses of many of God's miracles over 40+ years • Principle. Faith is based on substantiated information; Experiences may be nice, but not necessary
24:14-28	<p>Challenge to Choose the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v14a. “Fear and Serve the Lord” – Not a paralyzing fear that leads to dysfunctional behavior, but a positive force to motivate sincere & honest service & worship • v14b. Put away false gods. What are some things that distract us from loving and serving God as we should? _____ _____ • How do we put away those false gods? _____ _____

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v19a. “You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God; and He is a jealous God...” (He is intolerant of divided affections). Even after 40+ years, many Israelites were still carrying around idols. Joshua probably sensed Israel's cheap talk • v19b. “He will not remove your transgressions & sins” Principle. – We cannot presume God will forgive our sins if we are not truly repentant
24:29-33	<p>Challenge to Leave a Positive Legacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v31. “Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the LORD which He had done for Israel” Principle. If our faith is based on experiences (sight) and not on the trustworthiness of God's word, then we might be faithful only as long as we see things John 20:29 – Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet believed. 2 Cor 5:7 – the Righteous live by Faith, not by Sight

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The choice to serve God is relatively easy. The hard part is to put away on a daily basis our false gods of pleasure and greed
- Prayer, bible study, fellowship, and church involvement help us to stay focused and live a life pleasing to God
- What are some other ways to stay on course?

NEXT WEEK – Sanctity of Life: Prov 24:10-12; Mark 10:46-49. God holds us accountable if we put our heads in the sand on life issues such as abortion and euthanasia.

TWO WEEKS – Judges 1-3a. Because of sin, God curtailed His blessings for Israel and allowed several Canaanite people groups to remain in the land as a test of their loyalty to Him



Just 'cause Israel is gonna wipe us off the face of the earth is no excuse for that kind of language