**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?

**Concluding Passage**

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<th>Passage</th>
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<td>vv19a. “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</td>
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<td>vv19b. “He will not remove your transgressions &amp; sins” Principle. – We cannot presume God will forgive our sins if we are not truly repentant</td>
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**CHALLENGE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL**

- 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)

**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 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