Choose This Day

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah"

- Joshua 24:15 -

What lessons can we learn from this well-known statement of Joshua in the Old Testament? First, "choose" – we are all given the power and freedom of choice by God. We all have free-will!

Second, "you" - you need to choose. No one can choose for you or in your place. It has to be you.

Third, "this day" – do not procrastinate. Make the right choice today without putting it off. Tomorrow may never come.

Fourth, "whom you will serve" – the choice is between serving God or Satan.

Fifth, "but as for me and my house" – make the right choice regardless of what others choose or do not choose.

Sixth, "we will serve Jehovah" – the only right choice that brings blessings and eternal life is the choice to serve the Lord.

Friend, it's now time to choose. Choose to serve the Lord today! - Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- Some people don't always believe what they hear, but they repeat it just to be on the safe side.
- Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand.
- The Bread of Life never gets stale.
- Habit can either be your best servant or your worst master.
- Life is a one-way street. There are no uturns. We are not coming back.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - "Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right" - Proverbs 20:11 -

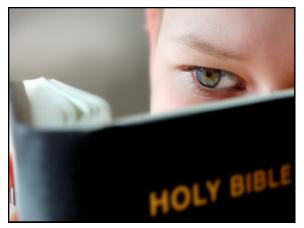
As parents, we all want our children to grow up to be pure and right. So, what can we do to build the spiritualmindedness in our children necessary for this? What can we do to make sure they are able to think right and be right? First, we can purpose spiritual-mindedness. Second, we can be spiritually-minded ourselves. Third, we can train our children for spiritual-mindedness. Fourth, we can control the worldly-minded influences that enter in from the outside. Fifth, we can pray for our children.

Purpose Spiritual-Mindedness

Spiritual-mindedness doesn't just happen by accident. Parents must purpose in their heart that they and their children will serve God and be spiritualminded. This must be their goal in life. Parents with this purpose will raise children with the same purpose of heart like Daniel (Daniel 1:8) or Moses (Hebrews 11:23-27). Abraham had purpose (Genesis 18:19), Joshua had purpose (Joshua 24:15), Manoah had purpose (Judges 13:8,12), and Hannah had purpose (I Samuel 1:11; 12:2). Parents today must also have that same spirituallyminded purpose of heart (Proverbs 22:6; 2 Corinthian 12:14; Titus 2:4).

Be Spiritually-Minded Ourselves

If we want our children to be spirituallyminded, we must first set the example ourselves. Parents must first set the right example of spiritual-mindedness by following God and his word and then passing that on to their children (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:1-9; 11:18-25; 32:46; Proverbs 20:7; 31: 28; 2



Timothy 1:5). Children usually become what their parents <u>are</u>, not what their parents <u>claim to be</u>. Children expect their parents to "practice what they preach".

Train for Spiritual-Mindedness

After we set the right example ourselves, we must then set out to actively train our children to be spiritually-minded. Parents can train by using God's word as their guide (Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15), parents can train through spiritual activities (Acts 21:5), and parents can train through correction (Proverbs 22:15).

Control Worldy-Minded Influences

There will always be worldly-minded influences that the devil sends our way to offset the spiritually-minded principles that we are trying to teach our children. Parents must be mindful of these worldly -influences and give their children refuge from then (Prov. 14:26). Negatively, parents can keep their children from worldly influences by keeping them away from worldliness that corrupts (I Corinthians 15:33): worldly friends, media, Internet, technology, etc. Positively, parents can surround their children with spiritual influences that will build them up (Hebrews 10:25): the church assembly, extra spiritual opportunities, home Bible reading and study, prayer, etc.

Pray For Your Children

Finally, parents can pray for their children to be spiritually-minded. Parents can pray that their children will obey God's word (I Chronicles 29:19) and parents can pray for wisdom to raise their children the right way (James 1:5).

Let's get our children spirituallyminded today Parents, you can do it! - Chris Reeves -