

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 24

For Me & My House, We Will Serve the Lord

- I. Joshua's Example – Joshua 24:14-28 – Note v. 15 → “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” This has become our motto for God-built families.
- II. Fear the Lord
 - A. Joshua 24:14 → “Fear the Lord.”
 - 1. Fearing the Lord has become spiritually incorrect in our modern society.
 - 2. Some weaken this statement by suggesting the fear we should have for the Lord only means to revere and highly esteem Him with awe.
 - 3. Each of these references is NOT talking about awe, reverence, and high estimation: Matthew 10:28; Acts 5 after the miraculous execution of Ananias and Sapphira; Philippians 2:12
 - 4. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 → “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ... Therefore, knowing the fear of the lord, we persuade men.”
 - B. Yes... But...
 - 1. Yes, the Lord loves us, John 3:16.
 - 2. Yes, He sent His Spirit to reveal His Word for us, 2 Peter 1:20-21.
 - 3. Yes, he has been patient, not willing that any should perish but all come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9.
 - 4. But our God is a jealous God and a consuming fire, Exodus 20:5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24, et al.
 - 5. But His laws have changed with the new covenant, He has not changed.
 - 6. If we do not serve the Lord, we should be terribly afraid.
 - C. Often, we do not view fearing God the way the Bible did.
 - 1. We view it from an emotional standpoint.
 - 2. The Bible actually views it from a behavioral standpoint.
 - 3. Deuteronomy 10:12 – Fearing God means to walk in God's ways. v. 20 – Fearing God means to serve God and cling to Him.
 - 4. Deuteronomy 13:4 – Fearing God means to keep His commandments.
 - 5. We do these things in order to NOT incur God's wrath.
 - 6. Hebrews 10:26 → Yes, we and our families should fear that.
- III. Serve the Lord in Sincerity and Truth
 - A. Joshua 24:14 → Sincerity and truth
 - B. Joshua 24:24
 - C. There is a balance.
 - 1. If we focus only on being sincere, we will be satisfied with emotional spiritualism, but will not serve God His way. That does not glorify Him.
 - a. Leviticus 10:1-3
 - b. Matthew 7:21-23 – The people were sincere in their faith they argued

with the Lord about it, but were condemned because they had not done the will of God.

2. If we focus only on holding the truth, we will be satisfied with a knowledge that we are doctrinally correct, but our lives may not conform to that correct doctrine.
 - a. This was the problem of the Pharisees, Matthew 23:23.
3. Matthew 15:8 – Jesus rebuked the Pharisees by referring to Isaiah 29:13.
4. We must balance serving the Lord in truth, learning to accurately serve Him His way and no other. We must also serve the Lord in sincerity, from the heart.
5. See Romans 2:13; 3:20, 28; 14:23.

IV. Put Away Foreign Gods

- A. Joshua 24:14 → “Put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”
- B. We are not likely to be pulled away from Jehovah by following Ba’al or Zeus.
- C. Exodus 20:3
- D. Colossians 3:5 – We should consider ourselves dead to “greed, which amounts to idolatry.”
- E. Philippians 3:19 – Speaks of those “whose god is their appetite.”
- F. Anything we put ahead of God is an idol. This could be material goods, personal pleasure, entertainment, fame and influence, or anything else. We must put these gods away.

V. Incline Your Hearts to the Lord

- A. Joshua 24:23 – “...incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” It isn’t enough to put away the foreign gods. We must actively pursue connection with the one true and living God.
- B. Proverbs 4:23 → Watch over your heart.
- C. The heart is the beginning of true service.
 1. The Pharisees were very good at getting their hands going in the right direction, but their hearts were far from God.
 2. Matthew 23:23 – While they attempted to stay devoted to God in tiny things, they neglected the weightier matters.
 3. Matthew 23:25-27 – They worked to look good on the outside but needed to cleanse the inner man.
 4. The heart is where true service begins. Actions will follow after that.
- D. This is how we and our family are willing to make the statement, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

VI. Today’s Response

- A. Is there anything in your family’s life that seems to take precedence over serving God? As a family discuss how to put God before whatever it is.
- B. Joshua based his address on all that God had done for Israel, Joshua 23-24. What has God done for you and your family that warrants serving Him above all else?