

Summer 2020



Joshua 24:15

15 ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Reflection

You might be familiar with the Old Testament character named Joshua. He was Moses' successor, the strong and courageous leader of Israel who led them to conquer the Promised Land. Joshua means 'God saves'. The name's Hebrew. It's Greek

version is Jesus. Joshua led God's people into the earthly Promised Land in the Old Testament and in doing so he anticipated Jesus, the greater Joshua, who leads God's people into the eternal Promised Land in heaven.

But not to get sidetracked, today's verse, or portion of a verse, is another really easy one to commit to memory. It's just twelve words from Joshua 24:15. I'll read the full verse and then repeat the part that we'll be focusing on, Joshua 24:15,

15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in

whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

It’s the end of this verse that I like to commend to you today, a very famous few words,

But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.

These words are found at the end of the book of Joshua and are the last words of a sermon that Joshua preaches to Israel at a momentous time in their history. God has driven all their enemies away before them and the Promised Land is now theirs. In his sermon before all the tribes of Israel on this momentous day, Joshua is offering them two ways forward: to serve God and

worship him only and enjoy the Promised Land forever; or to turn their backs on him and worship and serve foreign gods and suffer the consequences. But for Joshua,

as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

The choice Joshua lays before God's people over three thousand years ago is the same choice that lies before us today. We can serve God and worship him only, or we can turn our backs on him and worship and serve the idols of our culture, which is why today's verse is such a good one to remember,

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

I love this verse because it is so deliberate and decided, so determined and resolved. It's a verse that speaks of a made up mind; a mind made up in advance to not only serve Jesus but also to lead your whole family in the service of him. Is this how you feel? Have you made this decision for your life and for those who look up to you for guidance?

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Many Christians have had this verse engraved and put up on a plaque around their home. Many have put it on their front gate as a daily reminder to themselves and their families about their intention for life. I'm sure it also keeps them account-

able to their family and serves as a daily reminder to pray for themselves and those in their care.

Think & Pray

Why not consider doing something similar? Why not write this verse on your heart by memorising it today or writing somewhere in your home and so that you can be reminded of it daily? It'll strengthen your resolve to lead a life that counts. The famous preacher, John Piper, remembers growing up and reading something similar in his kitchen almost every day of his childhood, words from a poem by C. T. Studd on his kitchen wall. He read these words every day and it turns out they had a great effect on him.

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

What daily reminder can you place about your house that may change the future of your children to the glory of God and to their very great joy? Pray today for Joshua's conviction to lead your family well. Pray that you'd lead them with similar resolve. May these words of Scripture become the motto of your family and the greatest work of your life,

But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.