



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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It's Your Choice!

Scripture: Joshua 24:15; Hebrews 3:7-8

Joshua 24:15 -¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**

Hebrews 3:7-8 - ⁷ **Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,** ⁸ **Harden not your hearts,** as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.

We are responsible to God for our choices. As with Israel, so it is with us today. We can turn to God or to the beggarly elements of the world. Our idols may no longer be fashioned of wood or stone; they may be the illusionary pleasures of the flesh. Times have changed, and our circumstances are certainly different, but we, too, should make the same vital choice that Israel needed to make. **Indeed, today is a day of decision.**

Hebrews 3:7-8 is a warning from the Holy Spirit, "Today, if ye will hear his voice" stresses the immediate need to respond to God's message. The Holy Spirit's invitation is a firm, present one, not a promise for tomorrow. Urging listeners to not have a rebellious and hard heart like the Israelites did in the wilderness, where they repeatedly tested and provoked God through their unbelief despite seeing His miracles, **rebelled and were ultimately denied entry into the Promised Land**. Which led to a generation being denied entry into God's promised rest (Numbers 14:29)]. The core message is a call to have faith and trust in God's voice, which is heard through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and Christ's teachings. Responding with obedience leads to rest, while hardness of heart leads to rebellion and a missed inheritance.

Our human perspective tends to be limited to the immediate. **What feels good right now?** What is appealing presently? But God's Word provided insight into both the short-term and long-term ramifications of choices we face. **You have to choose who or what will control you.** The choice is yours. Will it be God, your own limited personality, or another imperfect substitute? **Once you have chosen to be controlled by God's Spirit, reaffirm your choice every day.** Living for God is a series of choices.

Each day we are faced with a multitude of choices, each having lasting consequences. We face choices about our activities, our words, our thoughts, and our lifestyle. In each of these moments, our choices must be directed by something higher than what we personally desire. The same question Joshua posed to the nation of Israel, "**choose you this day whom ye will serve**" (Joshua 24:15). You and I who live in the twenty-first century are faced with a similar question as to whom we will serve. **It's Your Choice!**

There is no middle road. Jesus declared, "*He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters*" (Matthew 12:30 AMP). Every choice we make must be confronted with the clear understanding that it will affect our spiritual walk. A major decision someone makes in a weak moment can have eternal repercussions. **Choices about words, activities, lifestyle, and devotion all have ramifications both for our life here and for our eternal soul.**

The momentous decision to give ourselves over to God is also the wisest choice we could possibly make. Without the Lord's influence and power in our lives, we would drift like a ship that has broken away from its moorings and faces certain disaster. However, we can make choices that will bring us back into fellowship with the Almighty. He has loved us and made provision for us through the blood of Jesus Christ. God has given us His Word as a road map to eternal life and it's your choice to who you will follow. Moreover, heaven awaits our response to the Lord's invitation to all who will hear His voice to open the door of their heart and welcome Him in.

If you want to be where He is, **if** you want to be with Him, **if** you want to walk with Him, **if** you want to live in His presence, you must deny yourself and take up your cross daily.

Remember, It's Your Choice!