

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	21
Sunday AM Worship	34
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	19
Offering	\$1585

Jesus' Plan For Our Salvation

HEAR

"... He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life..."
- John 5:24

CONFESS CHRIST

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my father which is in heaven."
- Matthew 10:32

BELIEVE

"... For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins"
- John 8:24

BE BAPTIZED

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned."
- Mark 16:16

REPENT

"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
- Luke 13:3

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." - John 5:48

Baraa's Bible Charts



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

SERVING GOD

Tim Canup

When a person obeys the Gospel, they become a child of God, that is, a Christian. Being a Christian involves service. The word "serve" implies submission, subjection & obedience. It also implies that there is a higher power or a greater being or authority. The idea of serving God is throughout Scriptures. What Does it mean to serve God? What is involved? We want to answer these questions from Joshua's well-known declaration in 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

CHOICE ("Choose...whom you will serve"):

We live in a land and in a time when we have the freedom of choice. We can choose what make and model car we want to drive and even the color. In the early days, cars were unpainted, but if they were painted, it was either dark grey or black, but now there are thousands of colors and shades to choose from. We can choose our home, the location, style, color. We have numerous hardware stores filled with products to customize our homes. We can go into a wide choice of grocery stores and find aisle after aisle of products from which to choose. Of the many restaurants

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that exist, most have a long menu of items from which we may choose. Not to mention all the clothing stores.

When it comes to religion, there, too, are many choices. There are many gods that man has created and it has been so from beginning of time. Some have even made themselves “god” or their job or hobby. However, the fact is, there is ONLY ONE true and living God. We have a choice as to which god we’ll serve. Joshua told these people, whom God had just delivered out of Egypt and had proved Himself to them, “choose...whom you will serve...” God will NOT force any person to serve Him!

However, God warned them, “And *take heed*, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and *when* you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage” (Deut 4:19) as well as in Deuteronomy 4:28 “And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.” On Mt. Carmel, there was a great battle or contest. Elijah asked the people, “How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.” God gave them the proof and He has given us the proof also, therefore, we must “choose...whom [we] will serve...”

PERSONAL (“Choose For Yourselves”):

Our choice is a personal choice. While it may be true that our parents have a bearing on our outlook and our beliefs, but ultimately, it is still OUR choice. Throughout time, many have left error for truth and some have even left the truth for error, because every person has the freedom to choose for themselves. We live in a that emphasizes freedom of personal choice. Paul said of the Christians in Thessalonica, “...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (I Thes 1:9).

At the end of time, we will be held accountable for the choices we made (Rom 14:12; Phil 2:12). Even if we have allowed another to influence our choices, we will still be held accountable. What if the time comes that we are forced against our will to serve another? That is exactly what happened in the first century in Rome. God told His people in Rev 2:10, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; & ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

URGENCY (“choose for yourselves This Day”):

Our choice must not be delayed. God wants us to take our time to carefully weigh the evidence; however, there remains an urgency. Time is never promised; tomorrow may never come. In Heb 3:7-11, the writer quotes from Psalms 95:7-11 about Israel’s wandering in wilderness. The thrust is on word “Today,” such as seen in 4:7 “again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” The writer puts an emphasis on the urgency of obedience. James wrote, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.

For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, & then vanisheth away” (Jms 4:14). God is pleading with all mankind to serve Him, but the time to accept is limited; “time is of the essence!”

ACCEPTANCE (“As For Me”):

Joshua weighed the evidence and had made his decision. In serving God, there are conditions. Joshua was willing to accept God’s conditions of service and God’s reward for that service. When we decide to serve God, we must be willing to accept His way of serving, not our own way. Even if all others go another way, we must have the fortitude that we will serve God the way He has instructed. We must be willing to say as Joshua did, “as for me...”

LEADERSHIP (“And My House”):

Joshua not only accepted God’s way for himself, but he was also willing to lead others. Concerning his family, he said “and my house” (the same was true with Noah). Not only did Joshua strive to lead his own family, but also the children of God. He put an ultimatum before them; serve God or serve man’s idols. Joshua was determined to lead his family. In one sense we do answer for ourselves, but as parents, we will answer for how we raise our children. It may be the case that they depart, after all they are free moral agents, but we should do all we can to equip them to face the enemy.

DETERMINATION (“We Will Serve God”):

Joshua made a very bold statement as he stood before this large gathering of people who seemed to be waffling. He told them to do what they wanted, but for he and his family they were going to “serve God.” That is the determination we must have; to be willing to serve Him even if all others reject Him and even if it is unpopular to do so or even if we are persecuted to the death. We must be willing to stand firm (Galatians 5:1) in the midst of “religious people,” who may be calling us names, such as a “legalist.” Or in the midst of some of our own brethren (who have departed from truth), for that is exactly what Joshua was experiencing. Stand firm anyway!

There simply is no other option! Yes, there are other gods, but they are false gods who cannot promise or deliver anything. They cannot give eternal life. There can be no compromise with the gods of this world!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 29 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Sept 5 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Sept 12 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Sept 12-16 – Gospel Meeting with Eddy Craft
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell