# *Third Street Church*

# *Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, June 10, 2020 - 6pm*

**Introductions/ Welcome/ Opening Prayer: Pastor Reid**

*Moment of Silent Prayer in memory of George Floyd and those lives lost to COVID19*

**The Word: Read Joshua 24:14-28**

# Joshua 24:14-28 New International Version (NIV)

**14**“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. **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.” **16**Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! **17**It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. **18**And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.” **19**Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. **20**If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.” **21**But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.” **22**Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied. **23**“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”**24**And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.” **25**On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. **26**And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord. **27**“See!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the Lord has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.” **28**Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

**Key Verse Joshua 24: 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.”*

***Reflection:***  Life is full of choices from the time we rise in the morning until we lie down for rest at the end of the day. One of the first decisions we make is wheatear or not we will get up when the alarm wakes us or if we will sleep in a little longer. Once we wake up and get into our day, we make many choices. Many of them are life changing. Chapter 24 Joshua is challenging people of Israel to “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” This is a life changing decision. Many of us have heard this passage many times in our lives. Joshua knows the hearts of the people. He has been their leader for many years. He has lead them in times of peace and times of battle. He has listened to the words of God and sought guidance from God in all his quests and battles. In these verses 24:14-28 Joshua reminds them and us how faithful God has been throughout history. Yet people were not always faithful and committed to God. (See what happened to Achan(A-kan) in chapter 7 for example). Today many are faithless. Many are distracted. This has been true throughout biblical history. Today the words of Joshua charges us to throw away foreign gods. Our God is mighty. Our God is a jealous God and will not accept **divided worship**. No matter what the people decided, Joshua was leader until the end of his life. His decision was clear: “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” What choice are you going to make today?

***Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion***

Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith.

1. What good advice did Joshua give the people in v.14?
2. Read Psalm 19:9 and Deuteronomy 10:12. What does it mean to fear the Lord. What makes reverence fear different than the fear that separates us from those different from us?
3. How can believers have a fear of the Lord and still draw near to God in worship?
4. V.15 Joshua says, “But if serving the Lord seems \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to you…. What would cause the people to be disloyal to the Lord? Would these same things cause us to be disloyal today?
5. How does Joshua practice good leadership in what he tells the people in v.15
6. In Josh.24:16-18 what are the people saying in reply to Joshua? What do these words say about how we should remember what God has done for us?
7. How do you view God as a jealous God?(v.19) What is Joshua saying about God in this verses 20-21?
8. How do you serve God in your daily life? Do you find it to be a challenge at times? Serving a Holy and jealous God cannot be done casually.
9. Looking further in Chapter 24. In v. 24:29 Joshua is given the title “the servant of the Lord.” What other biblical character is called “the servant of the Lord” at the end of his life. ( Deut.34:5)
10. What lessons can Christians learn from this lesson?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:** Share with your family the key verse from the study today. Have a talk with family, friends, anyone who will listen about who God is and why we as Christians serve God above all other gods.

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration find it in the midst of troubling times. Where do you find inspiration and hope these days? Is it a song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it helped inspire you? If you feel led, please share with the group.

﻿**Faith in Action:**. As Christians we are *the hands and feet of Christ in the world*. Let your light so shine so that others can see Christ in you! The physical church doors are closed but we are the church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out.  ***We are the Church.*** Reaching out , text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the body of Christ. Silent mom

**Evening Prayer- Pastor Reid. Let us lift up people/situations in God’s world for prayer *as followers of Jesus Christ we must know and believe in the power of PRAYER***

**Followed by** *The Lord’s Prayer Our Father which art in heaven….*

Last Bible Study for this month is **June 17**. Looking ahead : July 7- Worship and Communion. **No bible study on July 3**. Bible Study- 6pm on **July 10, 17 and 24**

**Words of Sending:**
L: My brothers and Sisters in Christ go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
**ALL: We go in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week!

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid