Part #13 CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE

Scripture Song: Be strong and of good courage – Deut. 31:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are concluding a series of studies on Lessons of Faith from Joshua. Today's topic: CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE.

1) Gathering at Shechem

a. Joshua 24:1 Why was Shechem an appropriate location to renew their covenant with the LORD? (see Genesis 12:6-7)
b. Joshua 24:2-13 How was Joshua able to recount such a detailed message from the LORD? (see 2 Peter 1:19-21)
c. How would you summarize this message from the LORD in your own words?
d. Why is it important to remember the way the LORD has led us in the past?

2) The appeal of Joshua

a. Joshua 24:14-15 What appeal did Joshua make to the children of Israel?
b. What does it mean to "fear the LORD"? Support your answer from the Scriptures. (Psalm 34:2-8, Proverbs 9:10, 10:27, etc.)
c. Why did Joshua need to ask the children of Israel to throw away the gods of their ancestors? (the example of their ancestor Rachel--Genesis 31:34)
d. What are some idols of our ancestors we might be clinging to that need to be thrown away?
e. What does it mean to serve the LORD "in sincerity and truth"?
f. Read Joshua 24:15 again. Why is it important for a leader to set a godly example for those under his or her care?
g. How can you be a godly example to those around you, especially to those who look to you as their leader? Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 4:13, etc.

3) Israel's response

a. Joshua 24:16-18 How did the children of Israel respond to Joshua's appeal?
b. Joshua 24:19-21 What are your thoughts about Joshua's reaction to their response?
c. What reason did Joshua have to respond as he did? Exodus 19:8, 24:3,7, etc.
d. Joshua 24:22-24 Why did Joshua need to repeat the exhortation to throw away their idols and what are your thoughts about the response of the people?
e. Compare their response to that of new Christians in Ephesus. Acts 19:18-19
f. Why is yielding our hearts to the LORD our God the only sure defense against idolatry? James 4:7-8
g. What is your response to the lessons you have learned from the story of Joshua?