



- Up Words # 27

## Election Choices



Whew! Another campaign season is coming to a close. The wait is nearly over, the end is in sight and most of us are ready for the political commercials and mail box memos to stop.

On Tuesday America will go to the polls and select men and women who will represent and govern us for the next two, four or six years. Though we may get weary of the political wrangling, debates and mudslinging it is indeed a blessing to have the privilege of choice.

Many years ago Joshua, the leader of Israel, reminded his people of their choices. He encouraged his people regarding their obligation and commitment to God. In Joshua 24:14 we find his words, "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord." But knowing human nature and sinful passions the way he did, Joshua presented another option. He writes, "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, *choose for yourselves today whom you will serve*: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living ..." (Joshua 24:15a) The Israelites had a choice. They could sincerely serve and submit to God or they could sinfully serve their self-made gods. I think we have similar choices today.

We can chose to serve the god of materialism. In doing so we are willing to vote for anything that benefits us personally, even if it is at the expense of others. We might also vote for egotism and chose to promote anything or anyone that will make us look good. Unfortunately many Americans appear to be voting for hedonism and the gods of sinful pleasures. Casting our ballots for whatever makes us feel good seems like the ultimate expression of selfishness to me.

But there is another choice, a vote for righteousness and the pursuit of godliness. Joshua expressed it this way, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15b)

I don't think there are any truly "undecided" voters among us. Each has determined whom he or she will serve. All of us have cast our vote for God or godlessness. What's your vote? Whom do you choose? This election is very important ... your decision will not affect the next two, four or six years; indeed, it has eternal consequences!

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle