**THE MORAL CHOICE [A]**

**Joshua 24:14, 15**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Man was endowed with the power of choice with its privileges and responsibilities.

 A. Adam and Eve were created by God as free moral agents (Gen 2:16, 17).

 B. Often the question is asked, “Why did God make man so he could choose evil?”

 1. God wanted man to be good, **BUT** He knew choosing good is the highest good.

 A. To give man the choice of good demanded the freedom to choose evil.

 C. Man’s freedom of choice is taught throughout the Scriptures.

 1. The freedom of choice (Psa 119:30; Mt 11:28; Jn 7:17).

 2. The kinds of choice: Foolish (Lot’s Gen 19:20, 21); Beautiful (Ruth 1:16 – 18).

 3. The power of choice is often great, **BUT** ***NOT*** realized.

 A. The evil influence of heredity can be overcome by moral choice.

 1. Ahaz the wicked father and Hezekiah the good son (2 Kgs 18:1, 3, 5, 6)

 B. The evil influence of environment can be overcome by moral choice.

 1. Saints in wicked Nero’s household (Php 4:22).

**BODY:**

**1. MORAL CHOICE IS INESCAPABLE**

 A. The choice of master is inescapable.

 1. Every responsible person is a moral servant by choice, ***NOT*** birth (1 The 1:9).

 2. Our choice of master is narrow.

 A. There are only two alternatives:

 1. God or idols (1 Kgs 18:21).

 2. Christ or Satan (Mt 12:26, 30).

 3. Obedience or **SIN** (Rom 6:16 – 18).

 B. Neutrality is ***NOT*** a possible, [we] must choose *only* one (Mt 12:30).

 C. Compromise is ***NOT*** a possibility, [we] must choose *only* one (Mt 6:24).

 3. Israel had chosen idols, Satan and **SIN** in spite of warnings (Exo 20:3; 23:24).

 A. Their choice meant disobedience, ingratitude and (consequences) punishment.

 4. Joshua had chosen God and obedience because of love and faith.

 A. This is the choice of master [we] must make (1 Cor 13:13).

 B. The choice of causes is inescapable (Heb 11:24 – 26).

 1. Moses at the age of forty was confronted with a choice between two causes (Exo 2).

 2. What were his alternatives?

 A. God’s People or the enemy of God’s People (Israel or Egypt/freedom or slavery).

 B. Meant suffering/affliction or worldly wisdom, pleasure and popularity.

 C. This is the choice confronting everyone (Jesus (Php 2:5 – 8; Paul (Php 3:7, 8).

 3. The reasons for Moses’ wise choice of righteousness?

 A. He knew the Pleasures of **SIN** were transitory: for a season (Heb 11:25).

 B. He realized Spiritual Riches were the [true] riches (Mt 6:19).

 C. He looked to the future recompense (Rom 8:18).

 C. The choice of destinies is inescapable (Mt 7:13, 14).

 1. Every person determines their own Eternal Destiny by choice.

 2. Our choice of destines is narrow (*only* two gates/roads/destinations).

 A. Our choice of master and causes is our choice of destinies.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Become a Christian and be saved is ***NOT*** by divine decree nor accident, **BUT** by choice.

 A. What is your choice today and does it line-up with God’s Word (Heb 10:31)?