**THE MORAL CHOICE [B]**

**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 INDIVIDUAL**

A. Reasons moral choice must be individual.

1. God created us individually [each has an immortal soul (Gen 2:7)].

2. God saves us individually [the invitation is to “ALL” with sincerity] (Php 1:3-14).

3. God will judge us individually (2 Cor 5:10).

B. As an individual choice, it must be *independent* *of*:

1. Family (Lk 14:26)

2. Friends (Lk 23:12)

3. Popular [*minority*] choice (Mt 26:33)

A. **BUT** in favor of Jesus [the *majority* contribution] (Lk 22:31, 32)

**2. MORAL CHOICE IS IMMEDIATE**

A. Some choices are ***NOT*** immediate and urgent.

1. Education (to college or ***NOT***)?

2. Career (place of employment or ***NOT***)?

3. Residence (location of abode or ***NOT***)?

4. Marriage (the if, when or whom of marriage does ***NOT*** have to be decided today).

B. The moral choice, though, between God and Satan is immediate (Jos 24:15; Col 3:24).

1. The choice can ***NOT*** be put off until tomorrow (Jas 4:14).

A. To ***NOT*** choose Christ now is to choose Satan (Mt 4:10; 12:30; Lk 4:8; 11:23).

2. Some believed [thought] they postponed their choice for Christ, **BUT** they did ***NOT***.

A. Felix (Ac 24:1-27); Festus (Ac 25:1-12); King Agrippa (Ac 25:13 – 26:29)

3. The choice for Christ ought to be immediate (2 Cor 6:2; Heb 3:7, 8).

C. The day of choice will soon be ended by death (Heb 9:27).

1. The uncertainty of LIFE should make the moral choice imperative, now (Jas 4:15-17).

**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)?