

## ***BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED FAMILY***

*(Joshua 24:14-15)*

In this age of broken homes and disintegrating family structures, there's a crucial need to build and establish a Christ-centered family, one where our Lord Jesus Christ, His Word and His Gospel are given first and central place in the home and in the heart of each member. Joshua's challenge to the families of Israel must be pressed upon our own hearts today: "*Choose this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15). As we reflect on Joshua's final exhortation to the households of Israel, let's consider these three commitments of a Christ-centered family.

**1. *A Christ-Centered Family is committed to a life of \_\_\_\_\_  
for God's gracious salvation.***

As Joshua gathered all the families of Israel to Shechem, he led all these people to renew their covenant before God (Joshua 24:1). In this covenant renewal, Joshua rehearsed the history of God's redemptive acts on behalf of Israel. Joshua reminded Israel of God's faithfulness and gracious salvation as demonstrated through God's call of Abraham and the formation of the nation of Israel (Josh. 24:2-5); God's deliverance of Israel from their slavery in Egypt (vv. 5-7); God's defense and protection of Israel from their enemies and the false prophecy of Balaam (vv. 8-10); and God's provision of the promised land of Canaan to Israel (vv. 11-13). Throughout the Scriptures, God calls us, His people, to remember and be grateful for God's redeeming grace, powerful deliverance and protection, faithful provision and promised inheritance (Psalm 145; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

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**2. *A Christ-Centered Family is committed to a life of \_\_\_\_\_  
and devoted \_\_\_\_\_***

In light of God's covenant faithfulness in saving, preserving and blessing His people, Joshua challenged the families of Israel to fulfill these sacred commitments and responsibilities: fear the Lord in reverent worship, serve Him in sincerity and faithfulness, put away false gods and make a lifetime choice and decision to exclusively and devotedly serve the Lord as a family (Joshua 24:14-15,19; Exo. 34:14). This choice is both a personal determination and a family responsibility. In a Christ-centered home, full and undivided allegiance to our Lord Jesus Christ is primary and central in the heart of every household member (Matt. 6:24; Col. 3:5).

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**3. *A Christ-Centered Family is committed to a life of \_\_\_\_\_  
on God's \_\_\_\_\_***

In response to Joshua's call for exclusive worship and wholehearted commitment to the Lord, the families of Israel readily answered: "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God" (Joshua 24:18). But Joshua gave the people a stern yet necessary admonition to recognize their sinful inclination to make shallow commitments and then fall back into idolatry (Joshua 24:19-25). This divine admonition is crucial to our own recognition of the need to constantly depend on God's empowering grace to establish a God-exalting and Christ-centered family.

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