

## Pastor's Message

MARCH 2018

Joshua 24:14-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

"Choose ye this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord". For more than 36 years a Home Interior plaque with this verse on it hung in my dining room. I saw it every day until we moved about six years ago.

As you know I was raised in the Methodist/United Methodist Church but I didn't always serve the Lord. Just because the plaque hung in my house doesn't mean I followed the scripture. There are still times that I mess up and have to ask forgiveness for something I have said or done in a moment of haste. We are reminded that we are all sinners saved by grace and I thank God daily for His grace and the love shown to me by God's faithful servants who loved and nurtured me even in my time of disobedience.

One of my deepest concerns at this time in our world is the fact that more and more families are not choosing to serve the Lord. I can't help but think that all of the horrible shootings, drug abuse, child abuse and other atrocities that occur in our world daily are increasing because more and more people are choosing not to serve the Lord. Church doesn't seem to be a priority any more, teaching children that Jesus loves me isn't a part of the program. When love isn't shown to a person then love doesn't grow in a person. When Jesus' love isn't a priority to teach then we lose the respect factor for others' property, rights and lives. My heart aches for all of those who have lost loved ones in senseless mass murders. My heart also aches for those who have committed these dreadful acts. I ask "What has happened to them in their lives that has driven them to think these actions are acceptable?"



Personally, I don't believe this is a problem that we can fix by writing a newspaper article or by complaining to our local, state or country's government. But I do believe that if we have chosen to serve the Lord our God, it is our calling to get down on our knees in prayer and ask God how He can use us either individually or corporately in our communities to show the love of Jesus to those who have been hurt and to those who have caused the hurt. I pray that we all ask God how we can be used to reach out to just one lost soul, those lonely and unloved, to help them experience the love of Christ. Showing Christ's love to just one may save the lives of many.

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Who introduced you to the love of Jesus and encouraged you to choose to serve the Lord? How did the love of Christ change your life?

In Christ's service,

Pastor Lynn

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