

Ye Are Witnesses

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. 22 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses." -- Joshua 24:21-22

Joshua had just challenged the people to walk with God and to keep the commandments. They were told to reject the gods of the other nations and to not marry into the idol worshipping peoples as they would bring their idols into Israel. He told them that they couldn't serve the Lord, meaning that they could not unless they put away the idols that their fathers served and were serious about living for God. They said that they would serve the true and living God.

Joshua's answer was that they were witnesses, one of another, that they had said that they would serve the Lord and him alone. No one made them decide and say that they chose to serve the Lord and to forsake all idols. They said it in front of the thousands

of Israel and so all of them witnessed the confession of all the others. So in the future any who broke their vow to serve God would do so in open denial of the promise to only worship God.

We do a similar thing today when we stand before a congregation and confess the Lord as savior and promise to live for him. A public confession is made and there are many witnesses. We are to encourage and help each other as we go through the days of life. Even as we desire the help of others, we are to do what we can to help others as well. The person is in error who only takes help from others and never helps those who come his way that need help in some form.

Ultimately we are witnesses against ourselves if we do not follow through on our promise to serve God. This is a serious matter and we had better take it seriously. It deals with both our souls and God. In **Ecclesiastes 5:4** we read, *"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed."* If a person makes a vow, a promise, unto God he had better be sure to keep that which he vowed. A lot of times someone

promises another person something and then forgets it, or does not intend to keep it in the first place. That is bad, but if he treats God in the same frivolous way he is headed for an accounting with God who does not take it lightly.

We know the difference between right and wrong, or at least we should. If we profess to be a Christian then at some point in time past we decided to confess our sins and ask the Lord to save us. The repentant believer made the decision to come to the Lord Jesus. It is not a decision that anyone else can make for you, but is between you and God. So we witnessed our own actions and words when we did this. Our thoughts and deeds are our personal responsibility and we will have to account for them.

We will not be able to say that we didn't know and plead ignorance before the Lord. For we do know that it was ourselves that said that we would serve the Lord and put him first in our lives. If we don't then we lied to ourselves, and to God. Others will also have witnessed our life as to our obeying the Lord, or our turning our back on God. Truly we are witnesses as to our words, actions, and the life we live.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

DAVID'S fighting courage

THE PHILISTINE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN CHASING DAVID AND HIS MEN IN HIGH GLEE—LITTLE KNOWING THAT THEY ARE BEING LED SWIFTLY INTO A TRAP—SUDDENLY....

THEY FAINT WITH FEAR—SLAY THEM BEFORE THEY CAN ARISE TO THEIR FEET!

...WITH THE BLAST OF THE HORN THE ISRAELITES FALL TO THE GROUND...

BUT WHAT IS THIS ?!

...THE HIDDEN ARCHERS SPRING UP FROM THE PIT IN THE GROUND.

...AND BEFORE THE RUSHING PHILISTINES CAN REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

...A VERITABLE CLOUD OF ARROWS SWEEPS OVER DAVID AND HIS MEN, SAFELY ON THE GROUND, AND....

...STREAKS SWIFTLY TOWARDS THE STARTLED PHILISTINES!

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