

THREE ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS

1. COMMITMENT TO THE WORD

*Joshua 1:8 – Do not let this **Book of the Law** depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to **do everything written in it**. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

*Joshua 23:6 – Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is **written in the Book of the Law of Moses**, without turning aside to the right or to the left.*

See also: Deuteronomy 12:1 – 8; Judges 17:1 – 6; Genesis 3; Matthew 4:1 – 10

2. BREAK FROM UNGODLY (COMPROMISING) INFLUENCES

Joshua 23:7 – Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them.

Joshua 23:12 – 13 – ¹² But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, ¹³ then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you.

See also: Judges 1:19 – 2:3

3. WHOLEHEARTED LOVE FOR GOD

Joshua 23:11 – So be very careful to love the LORD your God.

See also: Exodus 20:2 – 6; John 14:23 & 24

FIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CHOICE JOSHUA CALLS ISRAEL TO

*Joshua 24:14 – 15 – ¹⁴ “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then **choose for yourselves** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

1. It involves the _____

*Joshua 24:15 – But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then **choose for yourselves** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

2. It is a _____

Joshua 24:2 – 13

3. It is _____

Joshua 24:14 – Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

4. It is _____

*Joshua 24:15 – But as for me and my **household**, we will serve the LORD.*

Joshua 4:6 – In the future, when your children ask you, “What do these stones mean?”

Deuteronomy 6:6 – 9 – ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Judges 2:10 – After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

KEY PRINCIPLE: Neutrality is not an option.

5. It's not to be _____

*Joshua 24:15 – . . . choose for yourselves **this day** whom you will serve . . .*

*Joshua 24:19 – 20 – ¹⁹ You are **not able** to serve the LORD. He is a **holy** God; he is a **jealous** God. He will **not forgive** your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.*

• He is _____

• He is _____

• He _____



SCC Message by John Aldax, May 3, 2009

Part 3

The Story of God's People: Joshua

KEY THEMES

GOD'S PRESENCE & PROVISION

*Joshua 1:9 – Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God **will be with you** wherever you go.”*

See also: Genesis 3:8; Exodus 3:12; Leviticus 26:12; Deuteronomy 23:14

THE IMPORTANCE OF MARKERS IN OUR LIVES

Joshua 4:1 – 7 – ¹ When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ² “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

*⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a **sign** among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘**What do these stones mean?**’ ⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a **memorial** to the people of Israel forever.”*

SIN IS SERIOUS & AFFECTS MORE THAN JUST US

Joshua 6: 18 – But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.