

WHY SERVE GOD? – 2
JANUARY 10, 2021

REVIEW – JOSHUA 24:15

- Supernatural encounters, transformed lives, passion ignited to serve.
- Lame man, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Saul, 120, me.
- Clarity, conviction, cleansing, commission.
- We position ourselves to have an encounter.

CONTINUE – DEUTERONOMY 28:47-48

1. Because of what He's done for us in Christ. **EPHESIANS 1:**
 - A. Blessed us (**V3**); chosen us (**V4**); predestined us (**V5**); made us accepted (**V6**); redeemed us (**V7**); abounded toward us (**V8**); made known to us (**V9**); gave us an inheritance (**V11**); sealed us (**V13**); delivered us (**COLOSSIANS 1:13**); healed us (**1 PETER 2:24**).
2. Because of the consequences of serving the enemy.
 - A. The enemy offers hunger, thirst and nakedness. Just the opposite of what God supplies. **MATTHEW 6:25, 33** His goal is to leave us hungry, naked and stripped of all dignity.
 - B. Want of all things – **PSALMS 23:1** His goal is dissatisfaction.
 - C. Yoke of iron speaks of bondage – a slave to sin.
3. Because it's the right choice. **MALACHI 3:13-18 (HCSB)**
 - A. Group **A (13-15)** is the group to avoid.
 - They were complainers. "It's useless to serve God." **EXODUS 9:1**
 - Their view of God was wrong. **EXODUS 14:11** He brought them out to bless, not kill them.
 - Their attitudes were wrong. **EXODUS 14:12** "What's in it for us?" Serving the Egyptians would be better.
 - They lost their motivation for holy living.
EXODUS 32:6-8
 - Their focus was wrong. **MALACHI 3:15 (NLT)** They lost sight of the eternal perspective. Elderly African missionaries' story about retiring.
 - B. Group **B (16-18 HCSB)** This is the group to belong to: those who serve God in spite of the challenges.
 - Reverential fear. (Vines – a controlling motive of life in matters spiritual and moral; a wholesome dread of displeasing God. Common sense fears: sleeping in if you have an early flight to catch. Spiritually: living in sin, for its wages is death; not being merciful, we all need it; not tithing, we want blessed, not cursed.)
 - They encouraged each other. (**V16 HCSB**) They did what Caleb did – countered the evil talk of group A with words of encouragement. **PROVERBS 27:17** We are to do likewise. **HEBREWS 10:24-25** This comes after visiting the throne.
 - They were noticed and heard by God because they feared Him and honored His Name. (**V16 HCSB**) When people stand for God and pay the price to serve, they get His attention. **HEBREWS 6:10 (HCSB)**
 - They are considered His special possession (treasure). He has compassion on them.

CONCLUSION: MALACHI 3:18 (HCSB)

Everyone is called to serve God, but not everyone chooses to do so. What group do we belong to: God has drawn a line, but the choice is ours.