

Joshua 24:15

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.

How many of you have this portion of scripture hanging in your home?

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Now how many of you love it and also live it? But I wonder how many really read it and truly understand what it is saying? How many actually read it as;

- *But as for me and my house, we will love the LORD.*
- *But as for me and my house, we will go to church for the LORD.*
- *But as for me and my house, we will tithe ten percent to the LORD.*

Although those are all things we should be doing as believers, it actually doesn't say any of those, but the one important word I think some people gloss over or ignore, is the word "serve". For some of you that may sound like nails on a chalkboard to you, because you hear all the time that you need to serve in the church or be a servant to others, and you are not, and you feel bad every time it is mentioned in church or a devotional (like this one). For some you can barely make it to church every Sunday, let alone be there serving in the church.

"Well, I have a job and a family and..." Actually, what you have is excuses, because an excuse is really a sugarcoated way of saying NO to the Lord, and the saying should read more like:

- *But as for me and my house, we can't serve the LORD, because _____.* You fill in the blank.

I do not say the following to boast; But honestly, I have a full time job that I work at 8 hours a day, forty hours a week. I have a wife and three teenage kids. Yet I write and post daily devotional here, and I am also on the worship team at church, serving on it every Sunday, for two services. Even my wife serves at church, and is the head of the woman's ministry, yet she homeschools two of the teenagers, and cleans the house, makes the meals and do normal mom/wife things everyday. And still leads a weekly woman's bible study and is there serving for two services in the church each week as well.

Once again, I am not bragging or boasting in myself, or my wife, but it's a wakeup call for some of you, because what it really boils down to is your priority, and it shows what your priority really is, either serving the Lord or serving your flesh, because it's one or the other.

choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve

Now my wife and I are not some super Christians, we are a normal, man and woman, husband and wife, mom and dad. But I suppose the key is that we both put the Lord first in our relationship. Which means, we choose to serve the Lord, not to earn His love or our salvation, but because He loves us and we love Him. So we don't need to come up with excuses not to serve Him and others in the church.

You too are a normal man or woman, just like everyone else is that is in the church that serves. But be a normal man or woman in the church who loves the Lord, and not one who gives excuses to the Lord.

So, keep the sign posted in your house:

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

And as you do, then may you and your family do what it says with all your heart:

we will serve the LORD

† **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?*