

## Psalm 33 – Choose Whom You Will Serve

January 2, 2020

### Psalm 33:12-15 ESV

**12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

**13 The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;**

**14 from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,**

**15 he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.**

**God fashioned our heart with the ability to make choices and decisions independent of His immediate control (free-will), but never outside of His ultimate control.**

### Genesis 2:8-9 ESV

*8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

*9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

### Genesis 2:15-17 ESV

*15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

*16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,*

*17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

### Genesis 3:6 ESV

*6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

**The choice to love, serve and obey God must be a free, uncoerced choice, otherwise it is not love.**

- *That God would create man with a free will, reveals God's desire and intent to create man for fellowship.*
- *A forced decision breeds hypocrisy not from the heart.*
- *A forced decision will ultimately be resented and deserted.*

### Deuteronomy 30:15-20 ESV

*15 See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.*

*16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.*

*17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,*

18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

20 loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days...

### **The God-given privilege of free-will exemplified.**

Joshua 24:14-15 ESV

14 Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond 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."

John 6:66-69 ESV

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

2 Corinthians 1:24 ESV

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

- KJV "...are helpers of your joy..."

### **The God-given privilege of free-will abused.**

John 3:2 ESV

2 This man [Nicodemus] came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

John 7:13 ESV

13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

John 9:18-22 ESV

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

John 12:42 ESV

42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue.

John 19:38 ESV

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.

John 20:19 ESV

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Galatians 2:3-5 ESV

3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--

5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

**God has fashioned that freedom of heart in man and He then watches to observe what he/she chooses.**

- He also watches the choices and deeds of man collectively, to observe the course they choose as a nation.

Psalm 33:12-22 ESV

**16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

**17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.**

**18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,**

**19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.**

2 Chronicles 16:7-9

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you."

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand.

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.