

GOLDEN TEXT

Josh. 24: 15. Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Joshua 23: 1-13. An old man's warning.
 T. —Joshua 24: 1-13. Reminder of mercies.
 W. —Joshua 24: 14-25. Joshua's parting advice.
 Th. —Joshua 24: 26-33. Death of Joshua.
 F. —1 Kings 18: 17-24. Call for decision.
 S. —Phil. 1: 8-21. Living for Christ.
 S. —Matt. 6: 21-34. The first claim.

CATECHISM

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?
 A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto

the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

TIME AND PLACE

Eighteen years after the last lesson and twenty-five years after the crossing of the Jordan. The place, Shechem, between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Choice of Service, 14, 15.
Of the true God or of false gods.
- II. The Motive of Service, 16-18.
The past and present goodness of God.
- III. The Condition of Service, 19-21.
It must be sincere and true.
- IV. The Pledge of Service, 22-25.
Idols cast away and a covenant made.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 26; (Ps. Sel.); 237; 132; 545; 232; 150.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—14 Before Joshua's death, where did he assemble the people? (v. 1.) What had taken place there before? (ch. 8: 30-35.) Where had similar covenants been made? (Ex. 19: 1-25; Deut. 29: 10.)

15 What choice set before the people? Between what have we to choose? What did Jesus say? (Matt. 6: 33.)

16-18 What did the people answer? How often did they repeat it? (vs. 18, 21, 24.) What had God done for them? From whom had He delivered them?

19, 20 How is God here spoken of? How does He treat disobedience? (Isa. 42: 21; Heb. 2: 2.) Why does Joshua thus reason with the people?

22-25 What three witnesses were there to the covenant? (vs. 22, 25, 26.) How should God be served? (Eph. 6: 5; Ps. 119: 69; Heb. 12: 28.) When should He be served? (Acts 26: 7; Rev. 7: 15.) Who is on the Lord's side. Are you? If not, why?

Seniors and the Home Department—14 Who was the aged chief of the Israelites? How old was he? For what object did he assemble the people? For what historical monuments was Shechem famous? (vs. 26, 27, 32.)

15 What choice was presented? Compare Elijah on Mount Carmel. (1 Kings 18: 19-39.) Who bids us make a like choice? (Matt. 6: 33; Rev. 22: 17.) Why must a decision be made? (Matt. 6: 24.) What reasons for choosing God? (Matt. 11: 28-30; John 8: 16; Rom. 2: 4.)

16, 21, 24 What was their decision? How many times repeated? Why?

17-20 What reasons given for choosing the Lord's side?

22-25 How was the covenant renewed? Who were witnesses? What was the memorial of the covenant? (vs. 26-28.) Where is the first mention of writing in Scripture? (Deut. 31: 9.) The second? (v. 26.) The third? (1 Sam. 10: 25.) Of whom was Joshua a type? In what way? When should choice for God be made? (2 Cor. 6: 2.)

Prove from Scripture—That God's service requires sincerity.

Practical Points—1. "Now therefore" is a strong argument in God's mouth. He has done so much for us; shall we not be together His?

2 To "fear God" is not to be frightened of Him. We need be frightened only when we set ourselves to disobey. We fear Him when we fear to offend against such power and love.

3. Paul puts sincerity first in his list of Christian virtues and graces—"Whatsoever things are true," Phil. 4: 8. He who is lacking in sincerity, lacks all the rest. A man who is true, is sound and fit.

4. Some choice each one must make; and the very fact that one does not choose Christ, puts Him in the ranks against Him, Matt. 12: 30.

5. God is eager for our service; but He wants us to count well the cost. (See Luke 14: 28-33.) His service is worth any cost, Rom. 3: 7; 1 Tim. 4: 8.

6. Pledges or covenants are right; but they are not to be lightly entered upon; See Eccles. 5: 4, 5.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To what great choice does Joshua call the people?

2. What is their reply? Their reasoning?

3. What is the most important choice of our lives?