

UNTIL I RETURN

Based On the Book by Jeff Walling

Lesson 8 - You've Been Chosen; Words of Encouragement - You've Been Chosen

Intro: *No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:15-16)*

The fact that Jesus has "chose" us is an important statement by Jesus. It was so important, that it is included in some of His "last words" to the apostles before the cross. To appreciate this blessing, we must look at two facts: God's sovereign choice and our free will. *Jeff Walling*

1. God's Sovereign Choice

- What did God tell Job about his power/authority in Job 38:8,11?
- What does Eccl.7:14 say about that?
- (Ro.9:11-18) God has the ability to control our D_____!

** Throughout scripture, God has chosen people for their appointed places! He selected them by his own wisdom without consultation from anyone.*

- (Ro.8:28) Who receives the "good"? Those that have been C_____ to his good purpose.

* Christians are C_____ and CH_____ to be His people. We are part of his grand

P_____ and we are called to our S_____. We will receive the "gift of life" only because

God CH_____ to give it to us!

2. Our Free Choice

- God placed Adam and Eve in the garden, gave them instructions about the "tree of knowledge of good and evil" and left them to make a C_____ of obedience or disobedience.
- Read Joshua 24:14-15. What was Joshua's choice?
- What do the following scriptures say about our freedom of choice?

Ro. 6:12-13

Col. 3:2

1 Jo.2:3

* God calls us to follow him because he knows that we can choose not to. Once we have come to Jesus, we can even renounce our choice. Consider Rev.2:4, 1 Tim.1:19, and 1 Cor.9:27.

3. Living With Both Choices

- The irony; serving a God who controls everything and having a choice whether to obey or disobey him.
- While God allows us to choose; he will J_____ our actions and he can chart our course as he sees fit!
- While we struggle to understand how God's sovereignty and our free choice can exist side by side in harmony with scripture; we still need to focus on our J_____ not God's.
- In John 15:16, Jesus gave the "why" of the focus; to B_____ F_____!
- God has chosen us to share his L_____ in a spiritually dark world. Sometimes, we too quickly blame God for the present condition of the world.
- The only choice that remains is what we will do about his C_____.

Oswald Chambers on the difficult challenges we face in life; *These things either make us fiends or they make us saints. It depends entirely on the relationship we are in toward God.*