

PEARLS OF WISDOM
Joshua 23:11; 24:14

INTRODUCTION

- A. Joshua is coming to the close of his life as well as to the closing days of his leadership of Israel.
- B. He admonishes one last time the importance of staying true to God.

I. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD. 23:11

- A. How Do We Love?
 - 1. Student's question concerning love:
 - a. How do you know when you're in love?
 - 2. Joshua repeats similar words of Moses, Dt. 6:5.
 - 3. Christ repeated the words hundreds of years later, Mark 12:29-30.
- B. Love Shown By Our Actions.
 - 1. God showed His love to us, 1 John 4:9; John 3:16.
 - 2. Christ states plainly how we are to show our love, John 14:15, 21, 23.

II. FEAR THE LORD. 24:14

- A. Reminder of the Awesomeness of God.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 4:10 – God at Mt. Sinai.
 - 2. Joshua had wandered in the wilderness.
 - a. Seen first hand the power of God.
 - 3. We need to remember the power of God, Matthew 10:28.
- B. Fear of God That Leads to Love.
 - 1. Romans 8:15
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:17
 - a. 1 Peter 3:2
 - b. 1 Peter 3:15
 - 3. Fear of displeasing Him.
 - a. Relation of me to my Dad.
 - b. Shows our love to Him.
 - c. *Have we lost this "love" [fear] for God?*

III. SERVE THE LORD WITH SINCERITY. 24:14

- A. Service Follows Love and Fear.
 - 1. Because of our love and fear, we want to serve.
 - a. Romans 7:6
 - b. Colossians 3:23-24
 - 2. Slaves to God now. Romans 6:16-22
- B. What Type of Service?
 - 1. Hebrews 12:28-29
 - 2. Romans 12:1
 - a. Acceptable to God.
 - b. Abraham offers Isaac, a "burnt" offering, Gen. 22:2.
 - c. Knowing the commitment we made to God, do we no longer care the service we bring to Him?

CLOSING

- A. Joshua closes with the statement concerning his decision as to following God.
 - 1. Josh. 24:15
- B. What decision do you make?
 - 1. Are you truly following God?
 - 2. Or just partially?