

# CHOOSE LIFE

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Allan Wills, prepared for the Presbytery fellowship word, 12 June 2022  
Transcription of recording, slightly edited

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## Introduction

Praise the Lord! That was rousing singing of 'A Highway of Holiness'. That highway of holiness is not external from us. It is *in our heart*. I was really blessed with the singing this morning.

I have entitled my notes 'Choose Life'. You could entitle them, 'Choosing to be a son of God'.

Let us begin with a key Scripture, which is current as we're understanding where things actually work in the book of Revelation.

## His kind intention toward us

'And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold [that is, 'look and see' – be illuminated], he who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.' Rev 21: 5-7. This has always been God's intention.

It is His 'kind intention toward us'. Eph 1 :4-5.

God the Father has predestined every one of us to be His son. That includes all of the people in the world today, who are not yet His son or who will never choose to be a son of God. The predestination that God the Father has for everyone – amazing love and amazing mercy – is that they will be a son of God the Father.

## Choosing the name and the works that God the Father has chosen for us

There is nothing greater for our life that we can choose than to be a son of the Father.

We *overcome* by choosing the name and the works that God the Father has chosen for us.

We have to choose what He has chosen for us. He does not force it upon us. He does not 'twist our arm'. He does not make us choose. We have to choose. We are given the dignity of choosing.

## We have already made our choice

We do this by choosing to be His son, daily. This is a very important statement, for a day will come that reveals the choice *we have already made in our heart*.

What is the choice that you have made in your heart today, for a day will come that reveals the choice that you have already made in your heart.

## Beware of the leaven of hypocrisy – not obedient to His word

'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy!' Luk 12:1-3.

We can actually be going to church regularly, and yet there is hypocrisy in our heart, because we have truly not yet chosen to be His son.

However, that is who I am, day by day, when I awake and get out of bed. I go forth to be His son. I demonstrate that I am His son, because I am *obedient to His word*.

I do not say that I am His son, and then live the rest of the day as one who is quite disobedient to the word of the Lord. By doing that, I would be living a lie. I would be living hypocritically.

Jesus spoke to all of His disciples, saying, 'Beware.' We need to 'beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy, but there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.'

Whatever the choice in our heart, Jesus said that there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed.

## Our choices revealed

There will be a day that truly *reveals* the choice of our heart.

It may be hidden from everyone else - from our wife, our husband. It even may be hidden from our parents. It may be hidden from each other, as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, but there will come a day that will reveal the choice that we have already made in our heart.

'Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark', that others don't know about; that is a secret to your husband, to your wife; that is a secret to anyone else. Luk 12:1-3.

Children, it may even be a secret, or a mystery, to your parents. Your parents do not know yet what you are meditating in your heart; or the choices that you think you might make, even in the days to come.

‘Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light.’ It eventually will come to the light. ‘A day’ will reveal it.

What you have whispered in the inner rooms; what you have whispered to yourself; what you may have even whispered to others; what you have said to others on the quiet, and told them not to say anything about it - ‘What you have whispered in the inner rooms’ - will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

In other words, a day will come that will reveal the choice that you have already made in your heart.

### **The cost of choosing Him**

This morning, let us bear that in mind, and be focused on the response, ‘Lord, I need to choose to be Your son today. I need to pay the price, whatever the cost of that is.’

Surely there is a *cost*. Moses spoke to the children of Israel just before he was about to depart, saying, ‘I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; so choose life, in order that you may live; you and your descendants.’ Deu 30:19-20.

### **We choose life when we love the Lord, obey His voice, and hold fast to Him, every day**

What you choose will impact your ‘seed’; your descendants.

‘By loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, by holding fast to Him, for this is your life and the length of your days.’ Deu 30: 20.

We choose life when we love the Lord, obey His voice, and hold fast to Him. This is the choice we are to make *every day*.

Joshua stood before all of the people as they were about to enter the promised land.

He said, ‘Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth, and put away the gods [or the idols] which your fathers serve beyond the River and in Egypt. And serve the Lord! If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve.’ Jos 4:14-15.

There will come a day that will reveal the choice that you have already made in your heart.

### **The choice to stand and serve the Lord**

‘Whether the gods which your fathers served which are beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’

Joshua did not decide on that day that, for him and his house, he would serve the Lord from that day onwards.

Rather, way back, at the beginning of their journey, when Moses came down from the mount, after he received the Law and came down with the two tablets of stone, Joshua was with him when he came to the camp of the people.

They could hear the noise in the camp of the people dancing and worshipping a golden calf, and saying, concerning this golden calf, ‘This is the god that has brought us out of Egypt.’

And Moses groaned within his heart, ‘What has become of this people? What has Aaron done?’

As the story continued, he then called the people, and made a charge to them. ‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come and stand by me.’

We know that the most notable tribe that came and stood by him was the tribe of Levi, who then became the tribe of the priesthood. I have no doubt that Joshua was standing right there with Moses. Forty years previously he had made a public declaration before all the people where he stood. He had chosen to stand on the Lord’s side, with Moses.

Joshua’s statement was the testimony of his life. He did not decide, at that point, that he was going to do this.

He and his whole house *had already chosen* this throughout the forty years of wandering in the wilderness. They knew where they stood. They stood on the Lord’s side. They stood with Moses.

Regardless of every murmuring and grumbling that took place, they knew where they stood. They were not affected by the murmuring and the grumbling; and neither should we be affected by any murmuring and grumbling around us.

*We need to know where we stand.*

We need to make a decisive choice regarding where we stand, because a day will come that will reveal the choice that we have already made in our heart.

If we have not chosen to stand on the Lord's side today, with those who are standing with the Lord, we will know great trouble in the future. It will be to the detriment of our sonship.

We clearly understand from these verses that God has given all of us *the dignity and freedom to choose*.

### **The fruit of our choices**

We must also realise that our choices in life will bear a certain 'fruit', either good or bad, depending on the choices that we make.

The wise man, in Proverbs, tells us as much. I exhort you to read the whole of Proverbs Chapter 1.

'Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would not accept my counsel. They spurned all my reproof. They shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive will kill them.' Pro 1:29-33.

We need to know that the choice that we are making will either cause us to find life; or it will kill us.

Choices that we make in life are not passive. They are either killing our sonship; or we are 'feeding' on that word, and receiving the life that is necessary for the growth and maturity of our sonship.

'But he who listens to me shall live securely, and be at ease from the dread [or fear] of evil.' In other words, they will not fear the evil that is around, especially *the evil of unbelief*.

### **Our labour for the food of eternal life**

Recently, we have been exhorted by the Spirit concerning the priority of what we are labouring for.

'Do not work [or labour] for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father has set His seal.' Joh 6:27.

Note carefully what Jesus was saying in these precious words. The food, or the bread, of eternal life is given to those who work for it, or labour for it.

It is something of a contradiction to work, or labour, for something that is actually being *given* to us.

What, then, is our labour; and why is it necessary that we do labour?

Our labour for the food that endures to eternal life is to be at the forefront of every decision, or choice, that we make.

I want to focus on this, even to the very smallest of choices where we might think, 'Oh well, the Lord is really not too interested in that! He's not too bothered by that!'

Our mentality is to bring the big issues of life to the Lord. However, it is in the little issues that we establish the culture. It is in the very little issues that we are *establishing the culture of labouring for the food that is necessary*.

### **The capacity to labour depends on our fellowship at the tree of life**

As Adam and Eve came daily to meet with Yahweh *Elohim*, they were given the capacity to fulfil the works that were assigned to them by God.

Adam, as the head of his house, exercised dominion over all the works of the Lord God's hands, and Eve was his helper in this work. What an amazing work that Yahweh *Elohim* gave to them!

He gave to them this work, but they had to labour for the food that was given to them by meeting with Him each day. That was their 'labour'.

The *capacity* to fulfil this incredible work, including all the wisdom necessary to carry out their various daily functions, was dependent upon their fellowship at the tree of life.

The labour, for Adam, was to make this conversation at the tree of life his absolute priority.

### **Considering the testimony of Job**

Why, then, did Adam decide that he no longer needed to wholly rely on this fellowship as his most necessary food?

This was very different from the testimony of Job.

'My foot has held fast to His path.' This is the testimony of Job.

'I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.' Job 23: 11-12.

This was not easy for Job. His testimony did not come easily when news came that all of his children had been killed in that terrible incident,

and that everything that God had given him had been taken from him.

Remember, Satan said to the Lord, 'A man will do everything to save his own skin. Let me touch his skin. Let me touch his life. And he will denounce You.'

Importantly, this test is coming to us regularly, even on a daily basis where we are trying to save face.

As Satan said, man will do everything to save his own skin - but this was Job's *testimony*.

When all his children were lost to him, his wife came to him, and said, 'Why are you coming before God in sackcloth and ashes and mourning? Curse God and die!' She could take no more. 'Curse God and die!'

But, Job simply said to her, 'Dear, you speak as one of the foolish women. What you are saying is foolish.' This was his testimony.

We are asked, in the New Testament, to *consider the patience and the longsuffering of Job*, in terms of how we are to walk day by day.

### **The lie of Satan – another conversation**

We will examine this scenario for a moment. As we have come to understand from the scriptural principle that, with the Lord, 'one day is as a thousand years'. And, with the prophetic typology of the Feast of Passover, it appears that Adam had been in fellowship with the Lord for at least four thousand years. That is one million, four hundred and sixty thousand days.

I do not know about you, but if I had been doing something for four thousand years, I would think that I had a pretty good handle on things and, perhaps, I could 'take it from here'.

We have said that many a time, with different things, when we have heard the word of God. 'I will take it from here.' That has been to our detriment because, when we make the statement, 'I will take it from here', it means that we no longer need fellowship in that word that we have heard.

That is a lie from Satan! I would also probably think that my understanding had come to a place where I knew what the Lord was going to do and say to me.

To add to this, my wife and I are 'in a really good place'. We are 'on the same page' together. We

operate in one Spirit, so we think that our fellowship every day with the Lord is probably not as crucial as it was when we started out, and were novices in regard to both our relationship, our married relationship, and our work that the Lord has given us to do.

Surely, missing a day here or there will not really matter that much. Do you understand the thinking of the human mind?

Besides, with the knowledge and years of experience I have accumulated - nearly four thousand years of human experience - I believe I have attained a level of maturity where I am not stretched in the work as I once was. I am feeling quite comfortable with where things are at.

Because of this, I am even contemplating the idea that I can now be independent of needing this time with the Lord, and maybe should just meet with Him when I consider it vital; or when I think I might need 'a helping hand', and the issue is a bit bigger than what I thought.

Into this scenario, Satan came and craftily deceived Eve. He crafted an idea. He crafted an argument. It wasn't *ad hoc*. Through the pressure that Eve applied to Adam, to verify her choice of eating from another food source, Satan was able to prey upon Adam's vulnerability.

Obviously, there was something in Adam's thought processes that gave Satan access. This was 'a crunch time' for Adam regarding what he would choose. 'A crunch time' is a decisive event or moment. A day will come. There will be a moment. There will be a circumstance.

Would he choose *the fatherhood of God, and his sonship* that was continually being nourished at the tree of life; or would he *choose another conversation*?

Of course, we all know what he chose. It has impacted upon us all. The same nature that was in Adam is in us. We are born of 'the earthly man'. As I said, a day will come that reveals a choice that we have *already made in our heart*.

### **Our response to His word – choosing His way**

This is well exemplified in Abraham's nephew, Lot. The Scriptures recorded that the Lord called to Abraham and spoke a specific word to him.

'So Abraham went forth as *the Lord had spoken to him*.'

This was an *illumination* to Abraham, and quite a conversion took place in his life. He was redeemed as he was illuminated to this word.

In regard to Lot, we read, 'And Lot went along with him.' Lot *went along with him*.

Sometime later, a day came when there was strife between Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen. God had greatly blessed both parties, but Abraham was concerned about the strife that was occurring, and offered Lot the choice to separate from him, and to choose whatever part of the land he wanted to settle in.

The choice that Abraham presented to Lot was a crunch time for him. In the same mould where Elijah gave Elisha choice; and where Naomi gave Ruth and Orpah choice, it was a crucial time.

Would Lot choose to stay with Abraham, understanding that, if he did, he would have to resolve the issues that had arisen. Don't you think Lot *wanted* to do that? It was his heart to place his relationship with Abraham and what Abraham had chosen as his priority, also.

But would he *choose* another way that was appealing to what his eyes could see?

The Scriptures then recount what happened and, sadly, to his great detriment, he chose the latter.

'Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere.' Gen 13:10-13.

His eyes had been looking on this valley for some time. He knew the best part, thinking, 'Ah, that looks great. I would not mind that land for myself.'

This was 'before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Jordan, and he journeyed eastward. And they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tents as far as Sodom. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord'. Gen 13:10-13.

They were against the Lord!

### **Lot's choice was by worldly wisdom**

From a worldly point of view, this seemed a most excellent choice, but it was most *inexpedient* for his sonship.

Something that is 'inexpedient' is not to your advantage. What was worldly-wise; what was appealing to his eyes, that seemed to be of so much advantage to his sonship, was *inexpedient*.

Note carefully how Lot was drawn, and eventually settled down, and fraternised, with those who were sinners against the Lord. He began to develop friendships and intimate relationships with those who were *against the Lord*.

Hear this, because this can be very close to us, as well.

As time progressed, Lot became a resident of Sodom. He was one who sat in the gate of Sodom. He was deceived into thinking that he could help the people who were against the Lord. I do not think that we are any different. Hear this carefully. He was deceived into thinking that he could help the people who were against the Lord, by taking a leadership role amongst them.

It is 'mind-boggling' to think that you would prefer and choose to have intimate friendship and fellowship with those who are against the Lord, rather than with those who love and honour the Lord.

We are exhorted to 'do good to all people', but the emphasis is on those who are *of the household of faith*. When was the last time that you 'did good' to those who are of the household of faith, where you made offering to their sonship in order to reveal them?

### **Worldly wisdom leads to oppression**

The apostle Peter, when writing about Lot, said that he was 'oppressed by the sensual conduct of wicked men. For by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds.' 2Pe 2:7-8.

Lot chose to live with and put up with the unclean both in his family and around him And this oppressed and tormented him.

### **Our obedience to the Lord helps another**

Like Lot, we too can be quite misguided by thinking that 'the Christian thing to do' is to help, when all that we do is to oppress and 'torment our righteous soul'. It happens so subtly; so subtly.

Rather, it is our offering to be obedient to the word, and to Christ's fellowship, that will help other people. You, standing and being the *sanctified*

son whom God has called you to be is the greatest expression of love that you can bring to each other and to the world.

### **The error of putting normal daily things ahead of Christ**

When speaking of the time of His coming, Jesus picked on Lot's choice and made the following remarks as a warning to us all.

'Just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of Son of Man. They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage [all normal, day to day, things], until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.'

It was the same in the days of Lot. They were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building. Once again, these are all normal activities of everyday life.

But these activities had become their *priority!*

But on the day - *on the day!* There came a day that would reveal the choice that they had made in their hearts. 'I have bought a piece of land; I have bought five yoke of oxen; I have married a wife, and I cannot come.'

'*But on the day* that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.'

It will be just the same on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

### **Remember Lot's wife – her disobedience**

'Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.'

In highlighting the point, 'remember Lot's wife', it begs the question, 'What influence did his wife have in the choices that Lot made concerning their family, and where they ended up?'

It is amazing that Jesus highlighted Lot's wife. 'Remember Lot's wife.'

It is obvious from Jesus' statement about her that her heart had become ensnared in the lifestyle of Sodom. When commanded not to look back, she disobeyed, and was turned into a pillar of salt. But think on this, will you, during the week.

### **Husbands and wives must meet the Lord individually**

Follow the warning concerning Lot's choice and his wife's choice, because she *made a choice* to look back, in her own heart.

To every husband and wife, God gives the dignity of making their own choice.

Men, you cannot force your wife toward your choice.

Wives, you have the dignity to respond to the word in your own right, and to make your choice to choose your sonship, even if your husband does not. And do not let your husband, as it were, 'have it over you' under *pseudo* headship - where you must obey headship that is not submitted to the headship of Christ.

If a man is truly head of his house, then Christ is the Head of his house. Christ is the Head of that man.

A wife needs to be able to discern what is of God, and what is not of God. She has the right to choose. Yes, she can appeal to her husband when she sees him making choices that she thinks are not advantageous to their sonship. To go along with his choice, in the name of his headship, is to walk in the pathway of a lie. Z

I had not meant to say that, but obviously the Holy Spirit wants to lean on that.

### **God gives the dignity of choice**

God has given every one of us *the dignity of choice*.

Why we choose the things that we do, at times, only God knows. When I see some people making choices, I lift my hands up, and think, 'God, You know.' Why are they doing it when it is *detrimental to their sonship*.

### **Choosing the fellowship of the *agape* meal**

Following the warning concerning Lot's choice and his wife's choice in relation to His second coming, Jesus calls us to choose the fellowship of 'the *agape* meal' as the number one priority for our life.

When He spoke to the Pharisees concerning the coming of the kingdom, He said, 'Wherever *the body* is, there the eagles will be gathered together.' Luk 18: 37.

This is the *agape* meal. This is the prophetic *agape* meal. If we are living in it now, we will be part of

the three and a half years rule of Antichrist. Rev 12. A day will come that will reveal the choice of our heart regarding whether we are part of that *agape* meal or not.

I thank the Lord for the light that He is shining upon us in this present season. 'The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ' is shining as bright as I have ever seen it shine. The sword is as sharp as I have ever felt it, because of the times in which we live.

We are living in the beginning of the birth pangs of the time of the end. There is no going back to what was before.

You may have thought in your heart, 'If only I can get back to what it was a couple of years ago. I had things planned. I had my future planned. I had my retirement planned.'

However, the Lord is saying to us, 'My sons and My daughters, I want you to abide in the *agape* meal as your absolute priority.'

This is the *choice* that you must make - the fellowship of the *agape* meal.

We are learning what that is all about. This is where our *provision* is. This is where His covering over us is; His banner over us.

Isaiah recorded what God will do for Zion, His bride city, His church.

'Encourage the exhausted and strengthen the feeble [the tottering knees] knees. Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance. The recompense [or the reward] of God will come, and He will save you".' Isa 35:3-4.

He will save everyone who is gathered to the *agape* meal.

'Then the eyes of blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. And the lame will leap like a deer.'

I am looking forward to doing some leaping; to doing some leaping *in our sonship*. We leap for joy, like calves in the field.

### **We have a testimony**

'And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.'

Where you have been unable to speak because you have no testimony, you will have testimony.

If you have chosen sonship as your priority and His fatherhood as your priority, you should have a testimony. You should have testimony in your prayer life. Praise the Lord!

We had testimony here, singing those songs this morning. 'A highway shall be there.' Praise the Lord! I believe that is in all your hearts here today.

'For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes.

'A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it [Everything that is unclean is being dealt with.], but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there [no destroying lion], nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there.

'But the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion [We had some joyful shouting this morning. Did you join in the joyful shouting?], with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.'

### **The highway of holiness**

The groaning of unfulfilled expectation will flee away.

The word 'highway' means a 'main road', a 'raised highway' and, by extension, 'lifestyle or conduct', 'behaviour of life'.

The highway of holiness is the pathway of *sanctification*. It is the pathway upon which we are sanctified, as Christ was sanctified.

It specifically refers to Christ's pioneering journey as the only begotten Son, where He came all the way from the Father, then went all way back to the Father.

Further to this, it especially encompasses the seven wounding events of Christ's offering journey from the garden of Gethsemane to the cross, where He cried, 'It is finished!'

This is the highway of holiness, or the pathway of sanctification, which every son of God must join and participate in daily, if we are to be sanctified to the maturity of our sonship. Praise the Lord!

The psalmist spoke of this when he sang, 'Righteousness will go before Him and will make his footsteps into a way.' His 'footsteps' are the 'way' of the highway of holiness.

The wise man wrote, 'The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who watches his way preserves his life.' Pro 16:17.

### **The greatest evil is unbelief**

Note that Solomon carefully pointed out to every one who chooses to walk on the highway of holiness, that they must choose to 'depart from evil'.

Paul wrote that the greatest evil of all is *unbelief*.

In *choosing to believe*, we have to choose to not walk in unbelief.

### **Refusing the way of the world**

When we choose to follow the Lord, we also choose to not follow what the world offers us.

This was the choice that confronted Moses, and will confront everyone who chooses to be a son of God, every day.

'By faith Moses, when he came of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ [joining the reproaches of Christ] as greater riches than the treasures in Egypt [what the world could offer him]; for he looked to the reward.

'By faith he chose to forsake Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.'

By choosing to follow the Lord, we must also choose to refuse the way of the world. Often, this is the dilemma. *We want* to choose what the Lord has for us but, at the same time, *we do not* refuse what the world offers us.

The world offers us many projections and many pathways, that need to be refused. This will bring certain compromise if we stay in 'a grey area', and we will end up serving two masters. That does not work. It does not work! You are in 'a tug of war'. You are the one who is pulled apart in the tug of war.

### **Choose your sonship, not popularity with the world**

Large crowds followed Jesus, but He did not covet popularity of the people. Although there are not many young ones here this morning, can I encourage the young ones to not covet popularity at school. Do not covet the popularity of your peers.

*Choose your sonship*, instead.

Jesus did not covet the popularity that the crowds afforded Him, but turned and, with eyes as a flame of fire, looked them in the eye, and began to speak some very challenging words that cut them to the deepest.

Jesus spoke of the *cost* of the choice that they must make to follow Him and to be His disciple.

### **Loyalty to Christ before loyalty to our family; choosing His highway**

I will take a couple of minutes, because I do want to highlight something which continues to confront us all, and will continue to confront us, until we have chosen in our heart.

In reading this account, I am reminded of the time when Jesus' family came to see Him when He was ministering. Wishing to speak to Him, they asked someone to tell Him to come out and see them.

It was almost like a demand. 'We are family, we are kin; and we want You to come out and speak to us, on the basis of "We are Your nearest kin, and You are obligated to us".'

'But Jesus answered the one who told Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is My brother, My sister, and My mother.' 'These are My brethren.'

We must realise that those who choose to do the will of the Father in heaven *have joined Christ* in Gethsemane, and now are praying, with Him, 'Not my will, but Your will, be done, Father.'

They have *chosen* to walk on the highway of holiness. They are the body of Christ; the elect of God.

For example, my natural family who do not know the Lord are not the body of Christ, and they are



not the elect of God. My allegiance is here, to the body of Christ.

I am testifying to you today that my allegiance is to the body of Christ; not to my natural family. These are our true brethren, to whom we make offering and for whom we lay down our lives. I am not 'at the beck and call' of my family. Joan and I have had to make particularly strong stands over the year concerning this. Do I care about them? Yes. Am I courteous to them? Yes. But my allegiance is not to them.

### **Reordering the culture of our homes to become a godly culture**

I would like to end by quoting from Richie's notes last week.

'These homes will be joined [worthy homes], in one Spirit with the Lord and His presbytery, in a proper offering model where they will put the body ahead of themselves; and where they put the body ahead of their own family, demonstrating that "blood is not thicker than water", in the context of the gospel.

Furthermore, as ones who have come onto the ground of fellowship, as God-fearers, they will reorder the priorities of their homes to honour the word and to exemplify the culture of the highway of holiness.'

Is this what you are choosing? It must be, because a day is coming that will reveal the choices that we have made in our heart.