

## Reasonable Service

In the Bible, we are told to present ourselves for reasonable service (Rom. 12:1). In Joshua 24:15 we are told that we can choose for ourselves this day whom we will serve, whether the gods of our fathers, or the gods of the world around us; but as for Joshua and his family, they will serve the Lord.

Everything we do in life is a choice. Some choices lead to good ends and some lead to destructive ends. In Matt 7:13-14 we read, "For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." The path we take is a choice. The best path isn't always the most popular one. It isn't always the easiest one. But it is always the one that takes us to where we want to be.

In *Four Pillars of Man's Heart*, Stu Weber, a former green beret, talks about who's voice we listen to, and who's example we follow. He talks about the day he walked away from an elite corps of military men to join the ministry. He says he told Iron Mike, his commanding officer, "I have clear direction in my soul. I have developed a sense of conviction from God. I must go this way. It's a matter of principle, faith, trust, and obedience. Sir, I *must* take this road." That's powerful. He knew instinctively what was right and he made his decision accordingly.

Why? He talks about making a difference, about doing something that matters. He talks about authority. He says, "The truth is, until we have settled the *authority* question, we cannot settle any question." In my life, I've found that operating under authority gives me power, endurance, guidance, and freedom. To what end? Stu writes, "We can't do much about our ancestors but we can about our descendants. We've got to build a family that outlives us. We've got to build a home that outlasts us. We've got to build a heritage that stands strong and firm in the winds of time. We've got to build a civilization that doesn't fall apart with the passing years. We've got to build a civilization on pillars that will not lean or crumble."

What a wonderful image of leaving a legacy! I can't build that alone. I can't build that under my own strength or my own authority. But God can build it. All it takes on my part is a decision, a daily choice, an act of faith, and a willingness to submit to God's authority. "Therefore, humble yourselves under his mighty hand, and in due time he will lift you up. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6

I must believe that what I am doing is a good work, a gift from God. And then, as with all gifts from God, the best is yet to come...