** WBC SERMON NOTES 28 April 2019**

 **Joshua 23 & 24 “Staying on the cutting edge”
 Series: Courageous living in a secular world (12)**

INTRODUCTION
Staying on the cutting edge of your spiritual journey – being alert, and maintaining you vision, vigour and commitment - isn’t easy in the long haul.

Sadly, many who started out well in their Christian walk, have been side tracked later on. There are a number of notable Biblical examples:

* D………………………………
* S……………………………...
* M…………………………….

Joshua stands out as a notable exception. Although he made some mistakes he kept his course.

**The reasons for his persistent and consistent faithfulness to God are as vivid as the rest of his life story.**

Joshua 23 & 24 – Joshua’s final speeches: two historical perspectives, the first short term and the second long term:
Ch. 23: short range perspective on God’s faithfulness – “the Lord your God”

No one else but the Lord their God gave them victory.

Followed by a serious warning: 23:12-14. Put in context: they were to be:

* S…………………….. in their faith (v6a)
* S…………………….. in their obedience (v6b)
* S…………………….. unto God (v7)
* S…………………….. in their commitment (v8)

God had been faithful to His people, and they needed to be faithful to Him!
The consequences of worshipping false god’s were spelled out in v16.

Joshua’s second address (Joshua 24), at the age of 110 years, was at
Mnt. Gerizim & Mnt. Ebal. This was special place:

* Here,………………………… had received the promise of land
* Here, ………………………… had put away his families’ false gods.

Joshua stressed that God had been working right from the ……………………….;
It was God that enabled them to do great & mighty……………………………….. .

God’s mighty works– “I” repeated 17 times (24:2-13)

Joshua called for a response – v14
Joshua concluded his address with his famous words - v15
………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**APPLICATION: The secret of Joshua’s success in being a faithful & committed man of God over the long haul:**

**PRINCIPLE 1:
You must ………………… with all your heart that the Lord is the
……… ……… …………**

\* True humility
\* The right perspective of God & self

**PRINCIPLE 2:
You must …………… the Lord your God with ……………………………….**
What does it mean to love God? Joshua 22:15
**But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."**

John 14:21, 24
The Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:36-38

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. To what extent do you believe that God is the only true God? How is this reflected in your life? What about gods of materialism & sensualism?
2. To what extent do you really love God?
How is this reflected in your obedience?