

"Three Choices"

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Scripture Lesson:- Joshua 24: 12-24.

Text:- Joshua 24: 15.

Introduction:- Since we have only one life to live and it is so exceedingly brief, our greatest concern should be: How shall I invest it? Some are slow in learning that we do not live two lives. Man deals with two worlds, but with only one life.

I.

There are three ways in which you may invest your life. First, you can invest it as the miser who hoards. The miser lives on the mean basis of appropriation, always getting and never giving. He spends the first half of his time raking it in, the second half scheming how to hold on to it. He believes in getting all he can and canning all he gets.

Someone has roughly divided humanity into two groups; Givers and Getters. The givers have learned that the best way to get most out of life is to give. The getters meet each new day asking, what am I going to get out of it? The getters are soon forgotten by what they get. The givers are long remembered by what they give. The difference in givers and getters is the difference in a cistern and a spring. A cistern takes in everything and holds it; a spring gives out everything and blesses.

Our lives are not to be cisterns, they are to be channels; not to be reservoirs, but rivers. Of what value to the world is a miser. He is as a fruitless tree that cumbereth the ground. The world will not be any darker when his light goes out, nor any colder when his selfish heart ceases to beat.

II.

Second, you can invest it as the prodigal who "wasted his substance". Some words imply more than they express. Time is implied. When you waste time, you waste the world's most valuable article. Time is the world's greatest factor and also the world's

greatest waste. There is nothing with which we are more profligate. When you waste time, you waste the stuff that we are made of.

Talent is implied. Talent may be wasted in two ways. Wasted by non-use and by mis-use. If I am <sup>not</sup> to invest my life as the miser who hoards and the prodigal who wastes, how shall I invest it. Invest it in service for others. The business of life is service. If service is the business of life, then what shall be the sphere of my service? Well, may we not say, the home, the church, the community.

### III.

Home, when it is what it should be, is the most competent picture of heaven on earth to be found. As the home goes, so goes the church; as the church goes, so goes the nation; as the nation goes, so goes civilization. There is much talk whether civilization is going up or down, and one man's guess is as good as another, but whether it does or not is in the hands of the educators, legislators, or politicians, but in the hands of our fathers and mothers.

What will our nation be thirty-five years from now will depend upon the type of home we build today, and the kind of homes we build today will depend on the type of fathers and mothers this day will produce. Mothers and fathers are the corner stones of the nation, and as I see it, the corner stone is fast crumbling. The home rules the nation. No nation is weaker or stronger than its family life. We can no more build a great civilization without the right kind of homes than we can build a skyscraper on shifting sand.

To solve the home problem is to solve the crime problem. The crime problem cannot be solved by more jails, more policemen, nor by more high-salaried school teachers teaching the pernicious doctrine of evolution to youth of our land, nor by more modernistic preachers standing back of the sacred desk, more preachers who have taken the blood out of the atonement. How then can it

be solved. By the right kind of homes, and the right  
kind of home is a Christian home, a home where both  
Dad and Mother pray.