

Whom Will You Serve In The Coming Year?

⇒ **Text:** Joshua 24: 14-24

⇒ **Introduction:**

- We will always serve some god.
- We are never free creatures.
- Many say, "We will have no God to rule over us."
- But all are ruled by some god.
- One can get a good idea of the god someone worships and serves by the house of worship that they are found in on any given Sunday.
 - We want this morning to look at some of the gods people worship and their respective houses of worship.
 - Then I want to ask you the Question - "Whom Will You Serve In The Coming Year?"

⇒ **I. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF MATERIAL THINGS**

- Jesus said in **Luke 12:15**, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
- Jesus told us where are priority and focus should be in this life when He said in **Mt. 6:33**, "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**"
- So, where can we find on a Sunday, those who serve and worship the god of material things.
 - Where is their House of Worship.
 - The answer is simple if you think about - **The Mall.**
- Most anything to satisfy the flesh can be found at the mall.
 - Those who serve and worship the God of the heavens and the earth have the Word of God to guide and direct them where to go and have their spiritual needs met.
 - Those who's House of Worship is the Mall have the Mall Directory to guide and direct them where to go have their fleshly needs met.
- As some who serve and worship the Almighty God have many passages in the Word of God memorized so do those who worship at the Mall have the Mall Directory memorized.
- Just as God's House of Worship has something to meet the individual spiritual needs of those who worship there and makes one's life better.
 - Each store within the Mall has something to meet the fleshly needs its worshipper that promises to make the worshipper's life better.
- People who worship at the House of God enter in at its courts to feast on the Word of God.

- Those who worship at the Mall enter in at the food court to feast on its junk food.
 - o God's House of Worship has a preacher that exposes the sinful flesh and wants its worshippers to forsake and deny it.
 - Each store at the Mall has a salesperson that elevates the sinful flesh and wants its worshippers to indulge it.
 - o God's House of Worship has music that appeals to and elevates the spirit of its worshippers.
 - The Mall has music that appeals to and elevates the flesh of its worshippers.
 - o The worshippers at the Mall always leave feeling good about themselves because sin is never spoken about.
 - While the worshippers at the House of God sometimes leave feeling bad about themselves because of their sin.
 - o Before I move on to the next point, did you ever notice that most malls are laid out in the pattern of a circle?
 - You see most people who's House of Worship is the Mall are lost.
 - Lost people are always going in circle never really knowing where they will go when they die.
 - However, a person who worships at the House of God knows exactly where he stands with God and knows he is going to heaven when he dies.
- ⇒ **I. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF MATERIAL THINGS**
- o **Their House of Worship is the Mall**
- ⇒ **II. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF PLEASURE**
- ⇒ The Apostle Paul said in **2 Timothy 3:4**, that one of the signs of the last days would be - "Men shall be...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"
- o You can find those who serve the God of Pleasure on any given Sunday in their Houses of Worship
 - **1) The Movie House**
 - Each Sunday these faithful worshippers come to the Movie House to see their movie idols.
 - Oh! Yes a message is preached and a lifestyle promoted
 - Adultery, fornication, sexual perversion, violence, drugs.
 - Sin is glorified and godliness is looked down upon
 - o Or maybe you will find those who serve the God of Pleasure on any given Sunday at the
 - **2) The Stadium**
 - Baseball
 - Football
 - Hockey
 - Basketball
 - Soccer

- Each worshipper comes each Sunday faithfully to worship their sports idol.
 - It doesn't make what kind weather - hot, cold, snowy, windy, rainy, etc.
 - At times the service can get very loud and lively depending on the performance of the worshipper's idol.
 - Oh, yes to help the worshippers along in their praise for their idol, usually there is a praise team consisting of scantily clad women making all kinds of gyrations to enhance the service.
 - Some of these stadiums have even been called by many a sports announcer as sacred ground.
- ⇒ **I. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF MATERIAL THINGS**
- o **Their House of Worship is the Mall**
- ⇒ **II. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF PLEASURE**
- o **Their Houses of Worship are the Movie House & the Stadium**
- ⇒ **III. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF HEALTH**
- o Health is a blessing from God.
 - A strong body is indeed a good thing.
 - But some people put health and exercise before God.
 - o The Word of God tells us concerning exercise -
 - **1 Timothy 4:7** - "exercise thyself rather unto godliness."
 - **1 Timothy 4:8** - "For **bodily exercise profiteth little**: but godliness is profitable unto all things,"
 - **Hebrews 5:14**, we are instructed to exercise our senses to discern both good and evil.
 - **Hebrews 12:11**, the Christian is to be exercised by the chastening of the Lord.
 - o You can find those who serve the God of Health on any given Sunday in their Houses of Worship.
 - How many people have you passed either jogging, walking, or riding a bike on your way to church.
 - By the way it is all right to do such things if it is your mode of transportation to the House of God.
 - o Yes, I know the scripture tells us that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.
 - And we should take care of our temple.
 - Get plenty of rest, eat right, and exercise.
 - o But anything can become a god if we put it before the true God.
 - We should worship the God that is in our bodily temples and not the temple that He dwells in.
 - o You can find those who serve the God of Health any on given Sunday in their House of Worship called the gym, health club, spa, etc.

- Where they can parade around practically naked in front of mirrors and other fellow worshippers displaying the results all their hard work.
 - They are worshipping their bodies.
 - Just look at all the magazines that are published elevating the care and worship of the flesh.
- My friend a fit body will burn in the lake of fire just as good an unfit body will.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o We have seen this morning:
 - I. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF MATERIAL THINGS
 - Their House of Worship is the Mall
 - II. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF PLEASURE
 - Their Houses of Worship are the Movie House & the Stadium
 - III. SOME SERVE THE GOD OF HEALTH
 - Their Houses of Worship are the great outdoors
 - Where they exercise their form of worship by jogging, walking, biking, fishing, swimming, golfing.
 - Another house of worship if it is to hot or cold is the health club.
- o If you call yourself a Christian then you should be serving the God of the heaven and worshipping in the House of God.
 - 1. You should serve Him because He is the true God.
 - He is the One who deserves our service, the One above all others.
 - He is the One who die and purchased us with His own blood.
 - 2. You should serve Him because your influence will be greater.
 - People see you every day, and your Christian influence as they watch you is a blessed thing.
 - The Apostle Paul reminds us in **2 Cor. 3:2**, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:"
 - My friend what is your influence in your home, your business, among your friends?
 - It all comes down to Whom Will You Serve In The Coming Year?