

**Readings for the week of Nov. 12, 2023:**

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Amidst our normal day to day commitments, and hectic schedules, we may be inclined to forget about our spiritual lives. We can easily forget Joshua's words to the Israelite leaders that were given to him by the Lord in Joshua 24:14, *"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD."*

In Joshua 24:15, he declares his decision that *"as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*

It is important that we make that same decision in our own lives, and that we share the truth about the Lord with our children, grandchildren and any other generations to follow, and that we leave a legacy of faith in the Lord for them to follow. It is also important that we share that truth with our elders.

Jesus, God's Only Son, is the Savior and Redeemer of the world, for those who receive Him into their lives. In Reference to Jesus Christ, Revelation 4:8 says that He is the One *"who was, and is, and is to come."*

For those who have been Saved by His grace, His glory is not fully revealed yet. We await the great and glorious day that is described for us in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *"For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever."*

An alternate future that some will experience is shown to us in Matthew 25:11-13, which says, *"Later the other [foolish] bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

The Bridegroom, Jesus, has promised to return for His Bride (the Church), to take us to our eternal Home. May our prayer be, *"Come, Lord Jesus, Come."*

Are you ready to meet Him (Jesus) on the day of His glorious appearing?