

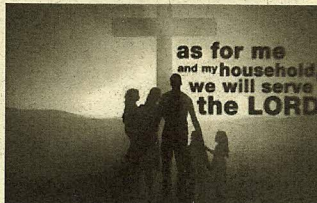
Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

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www.perryhillroadchurch.org

I'M THANKFUL FOR WHAT JOSHUA DID NOT SAY

In Joshua's farewell address, he stood before the representatives of all the tribes of Israel and told them to make a decision. He said that they could either turn from God and serve idols, or they could turn to God and serve Him. Joshua told them what his decision was: *As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*"(Joshua 24:15).



The leaders who represented the nation of Israel agreed. They said, *God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods*"(24:16). I am so thankful for Joshua and his dedication. I am also grateful for what Joshua did not say.

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "My family will serve the Lord without me." Friends, so many wives and children are serving the Lord without fathers. Fathers should be the spiritual leaders of the home (Ephesians 5:23-25; 6:4). Fathers have an obligation to their families and God to set the spiritual tone of the home. God give us faithful fathers!

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "I will serve the Lord without my family." Sadly, some fathers must serve the Lord on their own, because they have wives who refuse to follow their lead. Fathers must maintain their faithfulness, and one day they may win their families to Christ.

I'm thankful that Joshua did not say, "My family and I will not serve the Lord." Entire families will be lost eternally because they refuse to serve the Lord. I cannot help but think that greater punishment will come upon fathers who have the duty of leading the home in the way it should go. May God give us Christian homes! *Neil Richey*

