

BREAK FREE
Character Counts – Part 2 of 4

“11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.” Romans 13:11-12

KAIROS: A turning point that must be **EXPERIENCED** to achieve its God-intended purpose

“13 God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves. 14 His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven.” Colossians 1:13-14

“Don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing!” Romans 13:11

KEY OBSERVATION #1: The church is only as strong as its people, and their **PERSONAL COMMITMENT** to Christ.

“1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges, and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. 2 Joshua said to all the people... 14 ‘Now, fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the river and in Egypt and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’” Joshua 24:1-2, 14-15

#1: The choice is **INTENTIONAL** - “Choose for yourselves.”

#2: The choice is **URGENT** - “Choose for yourselves this day.”

#3: The choice is **UNAVOIDABLE** - “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24

#4: The choice is **GENERATIONAL** - “As for me and my house...”

*“16 Then the people answered... 18 ‘We too will serve the Lord because he is our God... 21 We will serve the Lord.’ 22 Then Joshua said, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord... 23 Now, then, throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord.’ 24 And the people said to Joshua, ‘We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.’”
Joshua 24:16-24*

KEY TRUTH #1: Gods of Egypt are the gods of my **PAST**

KEY TRUTH #2: Gods of the Amorites are the gods of my **CULTURE**

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.” Jonah 2:8

“They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.” 2 Kings 17:15

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Put to death, therefore, the evil desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil desires, covetousness and greed, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:5

KEY TRUTH #3: I must **IDENTIFY** the idols in my life.

CHARACTER QUESTION: How do you break free of an idol? **ANSWER:** By **STARVING** it to death

KEY OBSERVATION #2: God gives to you so He can give **THROUGH** you.

KEY OBSERVATION #3: You cannot **DELEGATE** the spiritual health and future of your family.

“25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he drew up for them decrees and laws. 26 And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD. 27 ‘See!’ he said to all the people. ‘This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the

LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.' 28 Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance." Joshua 24:25-28 (NIV)