

John 12:44-50 | Pastor Steve Wells | 07.10.2022
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This week Pastor Steve spoke on **John 12:44-50**, Jesus gave His final public speech to the multitude. From this point forward the interactions we read about will be more private in nature between Jesus and His disciples and those in close proximity to Him. What makes this speech even more special – is Jesus knew it was His final public speech! So, He made every word count. In this week's GoDeeper – let's read another famous public speech given by Moses near his death. In addition, we will look at a passage in Ephesians from the Apostle Paul written from prison.

Read and Compare these two passages of scripture. One is from the Old Testament (Moses) and the other is from the New Testament (Apostle Paul).

- What observations can you make between the two passages?
- Do you see the common thread?
- What do you think the Holy Spirit may be trying to tell you?
- Has your heart turned away?
- Have you allowed sin to remain present in your life – even though you are a believer?
- Have you made excuses for certain sins in your life that you want to hold on to?
 - If so, do you think these have become gods to you?

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 New Living Translation

The Choice of Life or Death

¹¹“This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. ¹²It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, ‘Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’ ¹³It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’ ¹⁴No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it. ¹⁵“Now listen! Today **I am giving you a choice between life and death**, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

¹⁷“**But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away** to serve and worship other gods, ¹⁸**then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed.** You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.

¹⁹“Today **I have given you the choice** between life and death, between blessings and curses. **Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life**, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. **This is the key to your life.** And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Ephesians 5:1-16 New Living Translation

Living in the Light

¹**Imitate God**, therefore, **in everything you do**, because you are his dear children.² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. ³Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. **Such sins have no place among God's people.** ⁴Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. ⁵You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.

⁶**Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins**, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. ⁷**Don't participate in the things these people do.** ⁸**For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!** ⁹For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

¹⁰**Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.** ¹¹**Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.** ¹²It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. ¹³But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” ¹⁵**So be careful how you live.** Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”