

Serving God – Choose or Excuse

***Ministry Fair 2018
Luke 4:8; Joshua 24:15
Anthony Grove Baptist Church
Dr. Dennis E. Bean
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Luke 4:8

**8 Jesus answered, "It is written:
'Worship the Lord your God and
serve him only.'"**-- (NIV)



15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, 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 24:15



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Reasons Why I Choose To Serve The Lord

1. I Serve Because He Is Worthy.

Colossians 1:10 ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, (NIV)



2. I Serve Because I Am Awarded.

Luke 18:29-30 ²⁹ "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life." (NIV)



3. I Serve Because I Get To Bless Others

2 Corinthians 7:13 ¹³ By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. (NIV)



4. I Serve Because It Brings Me Joy

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy. (NIV)



5. I Serve Because It Helps Me Grow

2 Thessalonians 1:3 ³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. (NIV)



6. I Serve Because I Love God.

Matthew 6:24 24 "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. (NIV)



John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.



John 14:21

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (NIV)



Excuses For Not Serving God

1. I Am Not Worthy.

Luke 7:7 ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. (NIV)



2. I Am Not Qualified.

Exodus 4:10-12 ¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." ¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." (NIV)



3. It Is Not My Responsibility.

Exodus 4:13 ¹³ But Moses said,
"O Lord, please send someone
else to do it." (NIV)



4. I Will Not Make Any Difference.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8 ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (NKJV)



5. I Have Tried And Failed.

Acts 16:6-8 ⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.



6. I Am Too Young or Old.

1 Timothy 4:12 ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (NIV)



Exodus 7:7

7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. (NIV)



7. I Don't Have Time.

Ephesians 5:16 ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (NIV)



Ecclesiastes 3:1

**There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under heaven: (NIV)**



8. The Real Issue Is Love.

**John 21:15 ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."
(NIV)**



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