

## Message Notes – October 27, 2024

### *Living God's Vision – Your Impact\**

imperative to choose whom the leadership of the Israelites will follow. What a choice? Of course, everyone wants to follow God, right? But take a few moments to think of your other choices. What are those choices? What benefit would they bring to your life? Why would you choose God over those other choices? Do you really have to choose between them? Meditate on these questions and write your ideas here.

#### **Thursday, October 31**

Before concluding the message, Pastor Jack mentioned several financial challenges facing Central Church today. That fact that we have met our yearly obligations by utilizing funds generated by our Endowment Fund may be a surprise to you. While many larger churches have endowment funds, there is always the danger of becoming dependent of those funds. There are several projects mentioned that will need attend over the next several years and of course we want to increase the vitality of our ministry in the New Year. What emotions did you feel when those challenges were enumerated? Were you discouraged? Were you encouraged? Think about it for a moment and write your thoughts here.

#### **Friday, November 1**

Happy All Saints Day! Remember that a saint is simply a redeemed sinner – so we're all saints. Thankfully, the message ended with lots of hopeful ideas and plans for our church. While we have to confront "the brutal realities of our situation" (From *Good to Great*, Collins), there is hope with new members and visitors each Sunday, the financial markets are improving and there is a good vibe at Central Church. Take some time today to praise God for many blessings and consider how you can, with confidence, choose to serve our God and receive God's blessing.

- I. It is a deeply and universal human desire to leave a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to continue the \_\_\_\_\_ of Central Church as we prepare for our ministry and mission in 2025.
  - B. What we've talked about during this year's \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign.
    1. We began with a message about how small \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to big \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives focusing on how each of us has power.
    2. During the second message I shared with you that everyone has a \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
    3. Last week we talked about how each of us are part of the living body of Christ; an \_\_\_\_\_ part of the living body of Christ.
    4. Today I want to demonstrate for you how each of us can come together as the living body of Christ and have an \_\_\_\_\_ in our world.
- II. The book of Joshua concludes with yet another \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony in the history of God's people.
  - A. Joshua is speaking to a selected audience of "the elders, the heads, the judges and the officers of Israel" — in other words, the \_\_\_\_\_ of leadership.
  - B. Joshua challenges these leaders to "\_\_\_\_\_ this day whom you will serve" (v. 15).
    1. Seems a little \_\_\_\_\_ as Joshua is prepared to close his eyes for the final time and for all time.
    2. But that is the nature of our \_\_\_\_\_; it tends to get in your face a bit.

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\*Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Matthew 25:1-13

C. "Choose this day whom you will serve." That is the Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ and it is a recurring message of Scripture.

III. Some quick facts that I hope will \_\_\_\_\_ you to look to the future of our ministry and help you in making a choice to support our ministry in 2025.

IV. How about some \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_?

V. I dream of a future when people will look back to this time in our history, they will be proud to say, "\_\_\_\_\_ are our legacy!"

### ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

#### **Monday, October 28**

In the beginning of his message, Pastor Jack mentioned Stephen Covey book, *First Things First*. It's a time management book but more than that, it's a handbook for living a joyful and productive life. Perhaps the best line in the book is its subtitle. Covey declares that the purpose of a human life can be summed up in four essential points, all of them beginning with the letter "L": "to

live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy." While you recognize the inherent value of living, loving and learning, how do you feel about your legacy? What kind of legacy do you believe you are leaving behind? How important is your legacy to you? Do you believe it reflects the meaning and purpose for your life? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

#### **Tuesday, October 29**

Pastor Jack reviewed a brief history of our church moving from downtown Pontiac to our present location on Highland Road in Waterford. The cost to make this move from Pontiac to our building today would be nearly 8 Million Dollars! Pastor Jack's point in mentioning that fact was meant to create a spirit of appreciation and thanksgiving and possibly inspire us toward a deeper commitment to our church. This is the first opportunity this week to consider what you give to the church? When you think of all that you have received from God and through the generosity of our predecessors here at Central Church, what thoughts and emotions do you experience? Although you've already made your Generosity Pledge, could you increase it? Could you double it? Consider these words and write your thoughts here asking God to create a generous spirit within you.

#### **Wednesday, October 30**

Read Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25. If you have time, read the entire chapter and perhaps skim through the rest of Joshua. Joshua is in a very interesting position, charged with following Moses as the leader of the Israelite People. There are so many facets to this story from the succession of leadership, the Battle of Jericho, other battles in which the opponents were to be completely destroyed. Finally, there is at the end of Joshua's life the