Date: 3/4/17

Title: Choices and Habits

Theme: Bad choices enslave to bad habits, but choosing to serve God brings freedom and joy.

Object: Magnetic tape in audio cassette.

Text: Joshua 24:15 “…Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, … But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Last week’s sermon. Focus: Choose/choice)

You made a very good choice this morning by choosing to come down front to hear the children’s sermon. Good choice.

Do you know what a choice is? A choice is when you decide the thing you want.

Suppose I say to you: “Do you want pretzels or chips?”

If you say “pretzels,” then you have chosen the pretzels.

If I say to you, “Do you want pretzels, or chips, or popcorn?” You have to make a choice.

When you say “Popcorn” you’ve chosen the popcorn.

Choosing what snack we want to eat is not really a very important choice.

But some choices are very important. In fact, the choices we make determine what kind of people we are going to turn out to be.

I chose to marry my wife, known to most of you as Grama. That made a really big difference in my life.

I chose to go to college and become a chemical engineer. That made a really big difference in my life.

I chose to accept Jesus as my Savior and become a Christian. That made a really, really big difference in my life.

Our choices determine what we become.

There’s nothing more important in life than learning how to make the right choices.

The Bible says there are two ways we can choose: we can choose God’s way or we can choose Satan’s way.

God’s way leads to life; Satan’s way leads to death.

 If we always choose God’s way, we will get in the habit of doing right, but if we always choose Satan’s way, we will get in the habit of doing wrong.

Do you know what a habit is?

A habit is when you make a choice without even thinking about it.

Now I want to show you what it’s like to get into a bad habit by making wrong choices.

I need a strong volunteer to help me this morning.

[Cross hands and wrap magnetic tape around wrists. See if they can break free. Keep doubling the number of wraps until they can’t break free.]

Each wrap of the magnetic tape is like making a bad choice.

The more bad choices you make, the harder it is to break free.

If you keep choosing to smoke a cigarette, you’ll have the bad habit of smoking, and it will be very hard to break free and quit.

If you keep choosing to drink or take drugs, you’ll have the bad habit of drunkenness or addiction, and it will be very hard to break free.

If you choose to steal, you’ll become a thief; If you choose to lie, you’ll become a liar.

If you keep choosing not to share with your sister, you’ll form the habit of being selfish.

But here’s the good news: we can form the habit of making good decisions too.

If we keep choosing to share with our sister, we’ll form the habit of being kind and generous.

IF we keep choosing the tell the truth, we’ll form the habit of being honest.

Our choices will determine what kind of people we become.

The most important choice we make is whether to do things God’s way or Satan’s way.

We need to form the habit of saying “yes” to God and “no” to Satan.

How many want to say “yes” to God and “no’ to Satan.

If we always do that, our lives will turn out really, really good.

Let’s make the choice that Joshua made: that we will always serve the Lord.