

THE SATISFACTION OF SEEKING THE LORD 2 CHRONICLES 15

Text: 2 Chronicles 15:2, 12-13

2 Chronicles 15:2

² And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

2 Chronicles 15:12-13

¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; ¹³ That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

Introduction:

Seeking God is spiritual, and comes about because we choose to do so, it doesn't just happen. Many Christians today can't conceive of the idea of being truly close to God because Satan has convinced them that it is impossible. They've believed Satan's lie that they are too bad or too unworthy to be really close to God.

Asa became king over Judah at a time when his people were extremely estranged from God. They were involved in idol worship and all the wickedness that

goes along with that type of worship. Yet, Asa had a heart after God, and he used his influence as king to turn Judah around, spiritually.

Asa's choice to seek the Lord brought some very satisfying results. Notice how the Lord used King Asa, and helped him realize the satisfaction of seeking the Lord.

1. THE CHALLENGE TO SEEK THE LORD

2 Chronicles 15:1-2

¹ And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: ² And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

2 Chronicles 15:7

⁷ Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

Asa and Judah had just returned from doing battle with the Ethiopians. Because Asa had already begun to seek the Lord and make reforms in Judah, God gave them an overwhelming victory. It is after this great victory that Azariah comes out to meet the king, and challenges him and his people to keep seeking the Lord.

We need to accept that challenge today.

Azariah was not only challenging Asa and the people of Judah to continue seeking the Lord, but also assuring them that God would be “found” of them (vs. 2).

When people truly repent, God responds.

Jeremiah 29:12-14

¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. ¹⁴ And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

A. Rebellion Had Brought Punishment

2 Chronicles 15:3-5

³ Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. ⁴ But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. ⁵ And in those times *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations *were* upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

2 Chronicles 15:6

⁶ And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

What is rebellion? Someone has defined rebellion this way: “Reserving for myself the right to make the final decision”.

Obedying God only when it's agreeable to one's own way of thinking isn't really obedience at all; it's rebellion.

Notice:

Isaiah 65:2

²I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way *that was* not good, after their own thoughts;

Recounting Israel's past rebellion against God, Azariah indicated that one of the chief results of that rebellion was a lack of peace.

The only way to have real peace is to live in submission to God.

B. Repentance Had Brought God's Presence

2 Chronicles 15:4

⁴But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

Azariah reiterates the thought found in verse two that God would not turn a deaf ear to the nation's cries of repentance. God had not done so in the past, and He would not do so now. However, repentance involves a change of attitude as well as a change of action.

2. THE COURAGE TO SEEK THE LORD

2 Chronicles 15:8

⁸ And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.

A. Asa Crushed the Idolatrous Worship (vs. 8)

When one truly seeks the Lord, they must take steps to break ties with every sinful allegiance in their life.

That's because who or what one worships shapes their life.

B. Asa Constructed The Lord's Altar (vs. 8, 11)

2 Chronicles 15:8

⁸ And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 15:11

¹¹ And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

The altar of God had to be repaired. Israel's sin and rebellion had left the altar of worship deserted and

desolate. Their relationship with God had been severed.

A common piece of furniture in churches of days gone by was the “mourner’s bench.” It was a place to kneel and pray and seek God’s face. It was a place of repentance.

The sad truth of our day is that the altar is deserted and desolate in many churches. Have we outgrown our need for the altar, or have we simply become too proud to bow before God?

C. Asa Committed He And His People To Seek the Lord

2 Chronicles 15:12-14

¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; ¹³ That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. ¹⁴ And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEEKING THE LORD

A. There Was Rejoicing

2 Chronicles 15:15

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all

their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

B. There Was Response

2 Chronicles 15:15

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

Note:

Proverbs 8:17

¹⁷ I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

C. There Was Rest

2 Chronicles 15:15

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

2 Chronicles 15:19

¹⁹ And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

Close:

Sin in the life of the Christian robs them of their peace. The best part of seeking the Lord is that repentance restores rest (or peace).

Remember:

Seeking the Lord involves a choice.

Rebellion brings Punishment

Repentance brings God's Presence

The Results of Seeking the Lord is Rejoicing, Response
and Rest