

THEY FEARED THE LORD AND SERVED THEIR OWN GODS 2 KINGS 17:25, 33-34

Text: 2 Kings 17:33

(2 Kings 17:33) "They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence."

Introduction:

It is as needful to warn you against the false as to urge you to the truth. Conversion, which is a divine change, is often imitated, and the look alike is often thought of as genuine.

This answers the Devil's purpose in several ways: it eases the conscience of the double-minded, adulterates the church, injures its testimony, and dishonors true Christianity.

Notice:

1. THEIR FIRST ESTATE (VS 25)

(2 Kings 17:25) "And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD:

therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them."

A. They had little or no religion of any sort.

B. They were near a God-fearing people, and near to king Hezekiah, under whom there had been a great revival. Such influence creates a great deal of religiousness.

2. THEIR FALSE CONVERSION (VS 33)

(2 Kings 17:33) "They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence."

A. They were brought about by fear only.

B. They were instructed by unfaithful priest; one of those who had practiced calf-worshiping, and now failed to rebuke their love of false gods.

C. Their conversion was extremely defective because:

1. There was no repentance.

2. The false gods were not put away.
(vs 29)

(2 Kings 17:29) "Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt."

a. While sin reigns grace is absent.

3. They rendered no obedience to God.

a. Even their worship was self willed.

Illustration:

The religious drunk has a dread of God but he serves the bottle.

3. THEIR FACTUAL ESTATE (VS 34)

(2 Kings 17:34) "Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;"

A. God was not their only god

Close:

In real conversion there must be:

- Idol-breaking
- Sin and self must be abandoned
- Our only God must be adored and served