

TRUE REPENTANCE

2 Chronicles 34:1-3; 8-10; 14-31

Introduction: The Word of God is life changing, whether it be spoken or written. In Josiah's day the Word of God was not found and the nation had practically forgotten about God. Somewhere the idea or impulse came to stop the idol worship, get back to the God of their Fathers. In so doing the written Word of God was found and it brought about great change.

I. WHAT SORT OF CHANGE DOES THE WORD OF GOD BRING?

1. The Word of God brings a Fear of God's Judgments.
 - Anybody who ignores or "puffs" at Gods' Word has never given any serious thought to it.
 - Josiah "rent his clothes" and feared God.
2. The Word of God brings a Sorrow of Heart.
 - One is quick to see the faults and sins of others in God's Word, but every person is equally guilty of other sins just as bad and abhorrent.
 - Josiah wept over the sins God's Word pointed out.
3. The Word of God brings about a Turning to God.
 - Turning to God is proof of true sincerity. Fears and sorrows are of little value if no heart change is brought about.
 - Josiah did not pretend to be sorry. He did something about it.
 - Josiah exercised unreserved obedience.

II. TRUE REPENTANCE IS ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT

1. True repentance is proof of one's sinfulness.
2. True repentance is accepting God's Word, statements.
3. True repentance is an actual turning away from sin.
4. God's promises come ONLY upon true repentance.
 - A contrite, humble, tearful soul, etc.
 - God never ignores the true penitent.

CONCLUSION:

1. How beneficial to be well acquainted with God's Word.
 - God's Word reveals what it takes to receive His blessings.
 - God's Word reveals what it takes to bring God's displeasure.
 - God's Word reveals what it takes to live with one another.
 - God's Word reveals what it takes to really KNOW God.

2. How blessed is the TRUE REPENTENT.
 - God hears only those who are sincere.
 - One's sincerity is proven by his/her actions.
 - Every person stands in need of repentance sooner or later, and often.

3. There is a difference in just saying "forgive me" and then saying "forgive me" with all one's heart.
 - How often have YOU just said the words but it was just words and no heart-felt regret for your sins?

4. What is TRUE repentance to YOU? Is it the same as it is to God?