

A Father's Charge to His Son  
By Trey Sullins

Parents possess one of the greatest responsibilities of anyone on this planet. They have the duty of teaching and raising their children in the right way. Often times history can trace major societal problems back a problem that begin in the homes of families. Perhaps the greatest duty of a parent is to teach their children about the true God. This is a duty that is often forgotten in many homes across the world and even sometimes in the Christian's home. King David, a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), recognized this duty and gave his son Solomon a powerful challenge in 1 Chronicles 28:9. By studying these words of the Bible we can gain much encouragement as Christians.

David begins with "know the God of your Father." What a great place to start his encouragement to his son. A man who was to become king would have many things which could distract him. He would have a choice of all the world's philosophies and pleasures to spend his time with. Instead of all these things, he was to know his God. Often times knowing God is something that is overlooked. People will go about their lives and feel right as long as they identify as being religious people. However, David's use of the word know means that he wants his son to have a greater understanding of God and a simple knowledge of His existence. This is proven by David's following statements in the verse. The importance of knowing God and His will for humans spans all time. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 says that God will take vengeance on those who do not know Him.

David tells his son to "serve Him with a loyal heart and willing mind." Think about all the things God had done for Solomon and his people up to this point. They were chosen by God, saved from Egypt, given a promised land and so many other things. God certainly deserved service from these people. A loyal heart would mean that Solomon would be dedicated to God and not seeking after other things or gods. A willing mind would mean that Solomon would be serving God because he wanted to and not out of obligation or necessity alone. Serving Him loyally is a task that all of us still have today. Hebrews 12:28 reveals both of these same two points to us: God deserves service and we must serve Him in a proper way.

David states to Solomon that God "searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts." The point he is making is that God knows your mind and what your motivations are. There is nothing secret from Him. Sometimes throughout Israel's history, its leaders would try and hide their sins from the Lord, but this is impossible. As Solomon worked to know His God and serve Him loyally, he needed to know that there was nothing he could hide from God. In the text of the seven churches of Asia in Revelation 2 and 3 Jesus says, "I know your work." Even though He was not with them He knew exactly what they were doing whether good or bad. God knows all things and we will all appear before the judgement seat; therefore, we must be strong to keep our works clean and pure (2 Corinthians 5:10).

David encouraged his son to "seek Him." He reveals that if Solomon seeks God, then he will find God. But if he forsakes God, then God will cast him out forever! These strong words indicate the seriousness of this exhortation. Jesus, in Luke 12:31 says to His followers nearly the same thing, "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you." Our goal as well must

be to seek God and His ways. Similar to David's words, Hebrews 10:39 says that those who draw back from God go to perdition. Our choice should be an easy one to make!

How well do David's words match to our lives? Hopefully, we are living in such a way that we can say we do all of these things! If not, our gracious God gives us the opportunity to repent of these sins and get back right with him! We have to make sure that we always know our God, serve Him loyally and willingly, and seek Him while understanding that He knows all things. With these points in mind we can press on strong to walk the Christian walk every day!