

Joy In God's Will

Ahaz ruled as Judah's king for 16 years and "did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord, as his father David had done" (2 Chronicles 28:1). Ahaz dies and his son, Hezekiah, became king and "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 29:2). Hezekiah shows that one does not have to be the same as their parents. If parents are wrong, as Ahaz was, then one must choose to be different if one wants to be right with God.

Hezekiah had the priests / Levites sanctify themselves to the Lord. He then had them remove the filth and unclean things from the Temple of God. They then began again the worship of the LORD as had been taught in the law of God. Thus, a whole generation of people is reintroduced to the true worship of God. The Levites "sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped" (2 Chronicles 29:30). The resulting effect: "Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had prepared for the people, for the events took place so suddenly" (29:35-36). The whole assembly rejoiced (2 Chronicles 30:25) "for since the time of the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 30:26).

One could only wish that this sense of joy and gladness in worshipping the God in truth and gladness would continue. Sadly, later generations found all of this worshipping and joy a weariness and bother. Malachi will write that the people would say "Oh, what a weariness" and then they would "sneer at it" (Malachi 1:13). God had remained the same, the temple service had remained the same, the difference was in the heart of the people.

The zeal, enthusiasm, and joy of finding God often gives way to boredom and resentment. When worship becomes centered on the worshiper and his feelings things quickly go astray. Worship is centered upon and on God. True worship is recognizing His holiness and greatness. Such worship can never grow old. If, however, we concentrate on our own feelings the heart's love for God will grow cold. Once coldness sets in, many people begin to want to change what they are doing, thinking that the innovation will restore the joy and zeal. Usually, the newness is exciting. However, it too quickly grows old. What I need is to renew my heart, not God's plan for worship and service. Let us each purpose to reignite the fire in our heart to do as God commands and deserves. Then and only then will we find the joy in living according to His needs and not our own.