

## Proper Preparation

*And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*

*2 Chronicles 12:14*

Today's verse shows the fallout that occurs when there is a lack of or no preparation. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon had inherited the throne after his father's death. From the outset of his reign, Rehoboam follows some ill-advised counsel resulting in disrupting the unity of his kingdom. His father Solomon had already set the stage for national decline by forsaking the divine wisdom that he had requested from the Lord. The peace that Solomon's kingdom experienced would end when Rehoboam took the throne. He not only failed to heed the wisdom of the elders, but he also forsook the law of the Lord. The account tells us that he did evil *because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord*. Not preparing his heart to seek the Lord resulted in much conflict for the nation.

What occurred in Rehoboam's life is very similar to what can happen to believers if they do not prepare their hearts to seek the Lord. Seeking the Lord should not stop when we find Him as our Lord and Savior; rather, we should do as the scriptures say: *Seek the LORD, and His strength, seek His face evermore (Psalm 105:4)*. In continually seeking the Lord we come to know Him in a greater depth, and see more clearly the path He has designed for us. God has provided resources we may access to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Him; but we must choose to take advantage of those resources. Everyday we should prepare our heart to seek Him in His word. Casual seeking is good, but searching with all our heart will yield greater spiritual benefits. *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God (Proverbs 2:3-5)*. Purposeful prayer also places us before the throne of grace; there, we can have a concentrated audience to pour out our praise, burdens, and requests to the Lord Himself. Weekly gathering together with the saints to hear the word and to worship provides many ways to prepare our hearts. The spiritual nourishment of the spoken Word, and the edification from fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ helps to strengthen and encourage us.

Without preparing our heart we will muffle the voice of the Spirit and be more prone to carnal influences. Relying on our wisdom and working in the flesh makes us more susceptible to doing the wrong things. May we start each day by preparing our heart to seek the Lord.

J. Ekis