

Prepare Your Heart

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

II Chronicles 12:14

Our Christian walk is something that is supposed to grow stronger every day as we gain knowledge through scripture reading, prayer, and the daily experiences that occur in our lives. God divinely appoints a wide variety of situations for us so we can learn to utilize all that He has provided. There is no perfection this side of heaven, but it is the Lord's plan for us to grow spiritually stronger and also closer to him as we travel through this life. One of the main hindrances for this to occur is when we stop all together or are casual in seeking the Lord.

Today's text warns us with the example of Rehoboam, who did evil because he *prepared not his heart to seek the Lord*. God never intended for us to be content with the spiritual knowledge that we have gained, but instead that we should be continually preparing our heart to seek Him and His ways. When we are slack in this area, we are allowing ourselves to be subject to the evil influences that constantly surround us. How many bad and harmful choices are made because of not being in tune and in touch with the Lord? Our walk and relationship with Him will become anemic when we stop seeking Him and the resources that He provides for us. In Rehoboam's life we see that he forsook the law of the Lord; and though there was a time when he sought the Lord and humbled himself to obtain deliverance from an enemy, he did not continue in his pursuit of God which led to his downfall. Just as a speeding car that runs out of gas will coast to a stop, the Christian who stops seeking the Lord will also deplete the fuel that powers their spiritual life. May we continually remember to *prepare our heart* to seek the Lord for His fellowship, guidance, and fullness.

JDE