It is Time to Seek the Lord

(A New Year's Message)
2 Chronicles 12-16
1/3/2010

Introduction: God promises to bless those who seek Him (Deut. 4:29-30)

Our Need to Seek the Lord is illustrated in the lives of three Kings of Judah

I. Rehoboam, a King who did NOT seek the Lord (2 Chron. 12)

2 Chronicles 12:14
"And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."

II. Abijah, a King who DID seek the Lord (2 Chron. 13)

2 Chronicles 13:10
"But as for us, the LORD *is* our God, and we have not forsaken him…"

III. Asa, a King who sought the Lord early in life and failed to at the end (2 Chron. 14-16)

A. When Asa sought the Lord, he was successful & blessed (2 Chron. 14-15)

2 Chronicles 14:7
"…we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought *him*, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered."

B. When Asa relied on Pagans & Physicians he was rebuked & chastened (2 Chron. 16)

2 Chronicles 16:12
"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."

Conclusion: James 4:8 - *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*

It is Time to Seek the Lord

(A New Year's Message)
2 Chronicles 12-16
1/3/2010

Introduction:

Psalms 90:12
So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.

How would you live, if this was the last year of your life?

If we knew that this was our Last Year on Earth we would prioritize:

1. ***T*he <u>ETERNAL</u> before the <u>Temporal</u>**
(Matthew 6:33; compare II Cor.4:18; 5:7; Col.3:2)

If we knew that this was our Last Year on Earth we would prioritize:

2. ***T*he <u>BIBLE</u> ahead of our <u>daily food</u>**
(Matthew 4:4)

If we knew that this was our Last Year on Earth we would prioritize:

3. **<u>EVANGELISM</u> ahead of <u>entertainment</u>**
(Matthew 4:19)

If we knew that this was our Last Year on Earth we would prioritize:

4. **<u>PEOPLE</u> ahead of <u>things</u>**
(Matthew 19:14; compare 19:19)

If we knew that this was our Last Year on Earth we would prioritize:

5. **<u>PRAYER</u> ahead of <u>sleep</u>**
(Matthew 26:40)

In brief, we would put God ahead of everything else! We would seek His face, His blessing, His approval, His will, His strength, His wisdom; We would seek the Lord!

The greatest need we have for the New Year regardless of how things go, is for us to seek the Lord!

The Bible has much to say about seeking the Lord:

1Ch 16:10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.
1Ch 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.
Ps 34:10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*.
Ps 105:3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.
Ps 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.
Pr 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all *things*.
Ac 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

Ho 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for ***it is*** **time to seek the LORD**, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

God promises to bless those who seek Him (See: Deut. 4:29-30)

Our Need to Seek the Lord is illustrated in the lives of three Kings of Judah

I. Rehoboam, a King who did NOT seek the Lord (2 Chron. 12)

2 Chronicles 12:14
"And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."

II. **Abijah, a King who DID seek the Lord** (2 Chron. 13)

2 Chronicles 13:10

"But as for us, the LORD *is* our God, and we have not forsaken him…"

III. **Asa, a King who sought the Lord early in life and failed to at the end** (2 Chron. 14-16)

A. **When Asa sought the Lord, he was successful & blessed** (2 Chron. 14-15)

2 Chronicles 14:7

"…we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought *him*, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered."

When one seeks the Lord it is evident!

In Asa's life, his seeking the Lord was evident by his:

1. **Repentance** (15:8)

2. **Influence** (v.9-10)

3. **Sacrifice** (v.11,18)

4. **Devotion** (Commitment) (v.12-15)

5. **Sanctification** (v.16-17) (His separation from wickedness, even the wickedness of his own mother!)

B. When Asa relied on Pagans & Physicians he was rebuked & chastened (2 Chron. 16)

2 Chronicles 16:12

"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."

Isa 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Conclusion: James 4:8 - *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*

A true seeking of the Lord will be evidenced by a desire to get as close to God as possible. God will favorably respond ("draw nigh to you") but you must make the first move (cp. Prodigal Son - Lk. 15:20)

Practically speaking how do we seek the Lord?

By seeking Him in <u>Prayer</u> (Talk to Him)

By seeking Him in <u>His Word</u> (Let Him talk to You)