**A Father’s Charge To His Son**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 20th, 2021

Text: I Chronicles 28:9-10

### Intro

1. *I Chronicles 28:1-8*
   1. David had a great desire to “build a permanent home for the ark of the covenant of the Lord” (28:2).
   2. He had prepared to build it but God told him since he was a “man of war” he was not permitted to build it (28:3).
   3. David gathered all the people together to announce to them God had chosen Solomon to build the temple, and then he charged the people to keep God’s laws (28:8).
2. I Chronicles 28:9-10
   1. David then charges his son Solomon to “know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever” (28:9).
   2. Then he adds, “be courageous and act” (28:10).
   3. David wasn’t known for being “Father of the Year” but as he was about to pass the crown to his young son, he was concerned for his soul and gave him advice that is relevant for today’s fathers and their children.
3. Parents may not all be royalty today, but they do leave behind a legacy – What do you pass down to your children? What have you taught them that they will take into adulthood?
4. Although made to an ancient king, David’s charge to his son contains lessons for today!

#### “Know the God of Your Father”

* 1. David knew the importance of knowing God!
     1. Judges 21:25: The book of Judges is summed up with the fact that the people did not know God, instead they did what was right in their own eyes!
     2. Hosea 4:6: The Jews would later be destroyed “for lack of knowledge.”
  2. How can your children know God today?
     1. As David charged Solomon to “know the God of your father,” parents today are charged to teach their children about God (Ephesians 6:4).
     2. I John 2:3-4: The apostle John declared that we know God through obedience to Him! We can’t just say we know Him, but we must obey Him!
     3. III John 4: John said, “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”
  3. Teach your children to know the God you serve!

#### “Serve Him with a Whole Heart and a Willing Mind”

* 1. Service to God has always been required of men!
     1. I Chr. 29:19: David prayed *(29:10ff)* for his son, Solomon, that he would have “a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all.” *A “perfect heart” is a “whole heart” (ESV).*
     2. Js. 1:21-22: Those who have a “willing mind” to serve God will, in humility, receive the word of God that can save one’s soul, & obey (Heb. 5:9).
  2. Our service to God must be a wholehearted service! *Parents: What do your children see?*
     1. *Mk. 12:30:* “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”
     2. Do your children see you serve God with a “whole heart” or a “compromising heart”?
     3. Do they see you serve God with a “whole heart” or a “convenient heart”?
  3. Teach your children to serve God from a whole heart and a willing mind!

#### “The Lord Searches (and Understands) All Hearts”

* 1. God said this to Samuel when choosing David as king – I Sam. 16:7
     1. Man judges by appearance but God judges the heart!
     2. *I Sam. 16:12-13:* David, the “runt of the litter” (so to speak) is anointed King!
     3. *I Sam. 13:14:* David is the man “after God’s own heart.”
  2. In the Psalms, David talked about how God searched and knew him, and was acquainted with all his ways and words – David even welcomed the search of God (Ps. 139:23-24)
  3. God has always sought the hearts of men and held them accountable!
     1. *Gen. 6:5:* Mankind in Noah’s time was evil in their hearts and was punished.
     2. Mt. 15:19-20: Man is defiled before God because of evil thoughts.
     3. Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10: We will one day give an account of ourselves!
     4. Heb. 4:12: The word of God is “able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart!”
  4. Teach your children to adorn their hearts with righteousness in all their ways!

#### “If You Seek Him, He Will Let You Find Him”

* 1. Jer. 29:13: The Jews were told they could seek and find God if they searched for Him with all their hearts!
     1. Ps. 119:2: David said a blessing is in store for those that “seek Him with all their heart.”
     2. King Josiah, as a youth, sought after “the God of his father David” and made reforms! (II Chronicles 34:3)
  2. Acts 17:27: The apostle Paul told the Athenians to seek God and they could find Him!
     1. *Matthew 7:7-8:* Jesus said those who seek will find!
  3. What is promised to those who seek after the Lord?
     1. Rom. 2:7: Eternal life! The promise of life is eternal life! *(II Tim. 1:1)*
  4. Who or what are YOU seeking? Teach your children to seek after God and His ways!

#### “If You Forsake Him, He Will Reject You Forever”

* 1. Joshua 24:20: Joshua had warned Israel of this consequence as well!
     1. I Sam. 13:13-14; 15:26: Samuel taught this harsh lesson to Saul.
  2. Mt. 10:32-33: Jesus taught His disciples that they must confess Him, not deny Him.
     1. *Jn. 12:42-43:* The Jewish rulers denied Him, though they knew Him!
     2. *Mt. 26:74-75:* Peter sinned when he denied Jesus 3 times!
     3. Jn. 12:48: Jesus’ word will judge those who reject Him!
     4. II Thess. 1:7-9: Penalty of rejecting God is an eternity away from His presence!
  3. Heb. 13:5: If we DO the will of God, He has promised to never leave or forsake us!
     1. *Heb. 5:9:* He saves those who obey Him!
  4. Teach your children to serve God and not reject Him, to hold fast to His word!

## Conclusion

1. David’s charge to Solomon in I Chr. 28:9-10 is still great advice today!
2. Fathers & Mothers: Teach your children these truths while they are young *(Josiah),* and even as adults they need to be reminded of them *(Solomon)* – ***It’s never too late!***
3. Parents: Don’t just say these things but live it and let your children see how to be faithful to God by your faithful example!
4. David’s charge to Solomon sums up the life of a faithful child of God no matter what time-period it is!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!