

Intro.

- A. If you were looking for an O.T. king's over God's people who likely would never have made right choices, this king over Judah's name might easily be suggested by those who remember the pattern of many successive rulers.
1. The evil Nadab, son of Jeroboam (**1 Kgs. 15:26**) *walked in the way of his father... & made Israel to sin.*
 2. In **1 Kgs. 22:51**, like Ahab his father, Ahaziah *did evil in the sight of the Lord.*
 3. Very often we find illustrated in history the scenario—"like father, like son."
- B. Occasionally, however, we find a grand & glorious contrast, & that is the case of the son of wicked king Ahaz, and his son Hezekiah.
1. His name means, *Jehovah is strength*, & this 13th kg. of Judah courageously initiated religious reforms to deliver Judah f/ idolatry which had permeated the kingdom.
 2. Hezekiah was committed to doing the right & godly thing – *something all Christians should be committed to doing each & every day.*
 3. Purpose: To study the right choices Hezekiah made, & see if we are making similar good choices today

Discuss.**I. HEZEKIAH CHOSE THE RIGHT MOTIVE...he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, vs. 3.**

- A. Many put their ultimate trust in their own feelings, or in whatever a parent says about what's right/wrong.
1. Kg. Hezekiah chose to do right *because...it was the right thing to do* – regardless.
 2. Joshua made the same kind of choice years earlier. His words ring true & clear still today f/ **Josh. 24:15**
- B. You & I must also choose the right motive – worshipping & serving God.
1. Why??? *Because it is still the right thing to do!*
 2. Faithfulness to God does not depend on our good health or financial prosperity.
 3. God warns us *...not [to] follow a multitude to do evil*, **Ex. 23:2**
 4. Any weak & sickly fish can drift w/ the current; any boat can drift helplessly without sail, power, rudder.

II. HEZEKIAH PUT THINGS IN THEIR RIGHT PLACE...he removed the high places..., vs. 4

- A. Good king Hezekiah understood...
1. Things that please God had to be established.
 2. Those things that dishonor Him must be removed!!!
- B. Today, God's people must realize that worldly things belong in the world, not in the lives of Christians.
1. For years many "religions" have enticed folks to "join them" with worldly gimmicks as bait.
 2. To often similar gimmicks are now being found in the church.
 3. *Drama* has replaced the Sun. p.m. sermon; special singing groups (AKA *praise team leaders*) are drowning out congregational singing; a more casual & entertaining (& less reverent) atmosphere, along with a more generic message & a new name (e.g., *Community Church*) is being seen more & more.

III. HEZEKIAH CALLED THINGS BY THE RIGHT NAME...Nehustan (a mere piece of brass), vs. 4

- A. There had been a time that the brazen serpent had served a valid purpose, **Num. 21:9**
1. Once its purpose was fulfilled, instead of being put aside, it became an object of worship!
 2. This *idol* was \geq worthy of worship; it did not need to be exalted of honor in a religious manner.
- B. Recently, I was asked why God had not preserved diff. artifacts that were imp. to Biblical history.
1. The example of the brazen serpent illustrates the point, & Hezekiah knew just what to do about it.
 2. Hezekiah called things by their right name, & so should we.
 3. While we rightfully acknowledge true worship & sound teaching, we must not fail to properly identify will worship (**c. Col. 2:23**) & false doctrine. (e.g., the "*Fellowship of all believers*")

IV. HEZEKIAH PLACED HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE RIGHT PERSON...*trusted in the Lord God,* vs. 5

- A. Many today place their trust in a man, or in themselves.
1. Yesterday a young mother told me she was looking for another place to worship. (daughter bored)
 2. She wanted to find some place she could *feel good!*
 3. In another conversation, one man was closer to the right thought when he said, *The only thing that matters is preaching the truth about what the Book says!*
 4. Heed the warning in **Prov. 28:26**, *He that trusts in this own heart is a fool...*
- C. The only church anybody should be a member & part of is that which belongs to Christ, **Ac.20:28**
1. He founded it, **Mt. 16:18**, & He adds the obedient to it, c **Ac. 2:41 & 5:14**
 2. He is the Savior of *His body*, **Eph. 1:22-23**
 3. Only thru Christ can anyone ever be with the Heavenly Father, **Jn. 14:6**.
 4. If you want to go to heaven, make sure your confidence is in the right person – *GOD*.

V. HEZEKIAH WALKED IN THE RIGHT PATH...*for he clave to the Lord & departed not from following Him, but kept the commandments which the Lord commanded...* vs. 6.

- A. We really need to get this point—*there is no cleaving to Christ without following Him*, c. **1 Pet. 2:21**.
1. To love & follow Christ is = obey His every command, (**Jn. 14:15**)
 2. *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments*, **1 Jn. 5:3**.
 3. Remember what Jesus asked in **Lk. 6:46**, and His unmistakable warning in **Mt. 7:21-23**.

Concl.

- B. It is certainly true that *his servants you are whom you obey*, **Rom. 1:16**
1. Are you determined to put away the sinful things of the world,
 2. Are you now willing to be *servants of righteousness*, **Rom. 6:18**
 3. Will you put your absolute confidence in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, & confess Him as such?
 4. If you are ready to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord, and put on Christ in baptism, he will add you to His church.
 5. If you have had some things out of their rightful place in you life as a Christian, we encourage you to make the right choice and come back to the Lord this very moment, & keep Him first in your life.