

Sermon Outlines
The Godly Life Illustrated By Hezekiah

Readings

1 Kings 18:5-7

Introduction

One of the glorious attributes of divine persons is unchangeability.

- a) God at times changes His mind in the bringing in of immediate judgment, for instance:
 - i) The populace of Nineveh learnt this as did Jonah when the Lord spared that city (Jon. 3:4-10)
- b) We might even say He changes it in the duration of a persons life, for instance:
 - i) Hezekiah. God had told him to set his house in order for he was going to die (2 Kgs. 20:1; Isa. 38:1)
 - ii) Hezekiah prayed and the Lord lengthened his life by fifteen years (2 Kgs. 20:2-6)
- c) However, when it comes to God's own essential being, that is unchangeable for we read, "I am the LORD, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). Therefore:
 - i) He is love (1 Jn. 4:8). In eternity past He was love and in the eternal future He will ever be love.
 - ii) He is light (1 Jn. 1:5). In eternity past He was light and in the eternal future He will ever be light.
 - iii) He is holy (Psa. 99:9). In eternity past He was holy and in the eternal future He will ever be holy.
- d) The New Testament presents the same about the Lord.
 - i) "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8)
 1. Because God is unchanging in His holiness, it is evident that a holy life is the same in every generation.
 2. What then are the characteristics which produce a holy life ?

The Characteristics Which Produce a Holy Life

1) Trusting

- a) We read, "He trusted in the LORD God of Israel" (2 Kgs. 18:5)
 - i) Note that these were his characteristics BEFORE the Assyrian army came (2 Kgs. 20:1-11)
 - ii) The Old Testament has a great deal to say on trust.
 - iii) In Hebrews 11 we discover every era of life is spoken of and faith is being exercised. In other words, the individuals are trusting.
 - iv) Trust necessitated Hezekiah's confidence in God, and not only His power, but also His promises and the fidelity of His person.
- b) When Hezekiah got the letter from Sennacherib, it was unnerving.
 - i) The Assyrian army was outside the city walls taunting Hezekiah and his trust in God.
 - ii) Reminding the inhabitants of Jerusalem of Sennacherib's previous victories.
 - iii) Mocking them because of their inability to provide enough men for horses if he would provide them.
- c) In the darkness of that hour Hezekiah spread the letter before the Lord. He was dependant on God for help (2 Kgs. 19:14; Isa. 37:14).

2. Cleaving

- a) We read, "He clave to the LORD" (2 Kgs. 18:6). It means he remained close to God.
 - i) This man was not going to let anything come between he and God.
 1. He was in close fellowship with God and wanted to remain in that situation.
 2. It is much like the truth the Lord spoke of, "Abide in me" (Jn. 15:4, 7) and this indicates:
 - (a) Fellowship which produces loyalty

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- (b) Fellowship which is based on a consciousness of God's love despite man's personal past failures
- (c) Fellowship which refuses to be moved

3) Following

- a) We read, "Departed not from following him" (2 Kgs. 18:6)
- b) He is is much like the Psalmist who wrote:
 - i) "My soul thirsteth for Thee" (Psa. 63:1)
 - ii) "My soul shall be satisfied" (Psa. 63:5)
 - iii) "My soul followeth hard after Thee" (Psa. 63:8)

This indicates living with the yearning to be closer to God.

4) Obeying

- a) We read, "Kept his commandments" (2 Kgs. 18:6)
 - i) The outcome of faith being exercised is fellowship recalled following this practical obedience. On this point we need to guard against two errors:
 - (a) Stopping short of obedience
 - (b) Thinking of obedience and not actually acting

5) Realizing

- a) We read, "And the LORD was with him" (2 Kgs. 18:7)
 - i) Observe the word "and" indicating the cause and effect
 - ii) He brought this matter before God and was brought to the place where:
 - (a) He experienced the reality of the promise of God
 - (b) He experienced the reality of the power of God.

Conclusion

Thus we have five main thoughts:

- a) Faith being exercised
- b) Fellowship of God
- c) Following hard after God
- d) The results are faithfulness to God and knowing the blessing of God

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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