

The Word of the Lord

There is an interesting story found in **2 Chronicles 34** that I think has a great deal to say to us and one that bears repeating. Judah had stumbled and fallen under king Manasseh, but he had humbled himself and began to seek God and what He wanted for Judah. Amon, Manasseh's son, turned away from the Lord and worshipped foreign idols. He, according to the chronicler, "increased his guilt" rather than humble himself before the Lord. His own officials killed him.

Then came Josiah. At the age of 16, he began to seek the God of his father David. He destroyed the Asherah poles, the idols, the carved images, and incense altars to Baal. He took the bones of the priests of Baal and burned them on their own altars. Then he set about the task of having the temple restored.

While restoring the temple, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law, something that had not seen the light of day for a long time. Hilkiah sent it to Josiah by Shaphan, and Shaphan read the Book of the Law to Josiah. Josiah tore his robes because he realized that Judah's problems were caused by the failure of his predecessors to keep the Book of the Law. Because Josiah repented of their great sin, God agreed not to destroy Judah—at least not yet.

It is recorded in **2 Chronicles 34:29-33** just what happened next. Josiah read to Book of the Covenant to all the people of Jerusalem. He renewed the covenant to "**follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and soul, and to obey the words of the covenant**" written in the Book. All the people pledged themselves to it as well. Josiah "**removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their fathers.**"

What about us? Have we lost the word of the Lord? Do we just follow what others tell us about it rather than seeking it out for ourselves? Do we have a time of personal Bible study? Do we meet together as often as we can to study the Bible together, or do we think a 25 minute sermon, one Sunday morning a week, is adequate?

Here's what the word of God says:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16)

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Continue to study God’s word in depth. You may discover something you’ve never seen before. It will certainly be a blessing to you.