

20th of December 2015

David passed on the bare necessities of life to his son (Pt 6 David).

Introduction.

This is our sixth study on the person of David in the scriptures.

Over the past three studies we have sought to answer the question:

* what else did David do other than acknowledge his sin, for him to have a heart after God?

Our answer has included; David:

1. knew of God's lovingkindness so when he sinned he sought His mercy.
2. knew God's tender mercies so when he sinned he asked for his sins to be blotted out.
3. knew God could cast him away because of his sin.
4. had a broken spirit and a contrite heart.
5. believed God could create in him a right spirit and a new heart.
6. promised God he would do work meet for repentance.
7. his repentance included him singing aloud of God's righteousness.
8. owned his sin and asked that the consequences only be on him.
9. was afraid of the Lord.

This teaching will cover what David passed on to his son Solomon.

(1) be thou strong, and (2) show thyself a man, and (3) keep the charge of the Lord.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Before David died he charged Solomon his son to be strong.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 1 & 2 "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man".

Context & meaning of our verse.

* Our three points are all from 1Kg.2 and so our context established in this point will also apply to our next two.

* The scriptures record the time of David's sojourning was drawing "nigh that he should die", and so he charged his son Solomon with what he had learnt in his life. When we compare scripture with scripture we see that Solomon was "young and tender" before the death of his father when he also "charged him to build an house for the Lord God of Israel" (1Chr.22: 6). David commanded his son Solomon to be strong, knowing that the Lord was his "strong rock" (Ps.31: 2).

Other scriptural support.

1Chr.28: 20.

Scriptural examples.

* Moses (as an elder) commanded Joshua before his death to be strong (Deut.31: 2, 6 & 7).

Application of verse today.

* Our verse is to the Jew, but we see a similar commandment that Paul wrote to Timothy his son in the faith where he encouraged him to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2Tim.2: 1, see also Eph.6: 10 & 1Cor.16: 13). Hence, our verse is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* There is a movie called "300" where one man leads an army of 299 Spartans to fight against the mighty Persian army. The Spartans were fearless, strong men in a physical battle.

Learning from our Illustration.

* David and those in the Old Testament were called to be strong, physically because they fought in physical battles against armies that out-numbered them as did the Spartans. But Israel had the Lord as their "strong rock", whereas the Spartans had only their own physical strength and skill. Even though Solomon had rest from war we see that subsequent kings like Hezekiah spoke to their people about the need to "be strong" and generally the encouragement to be of good courage, be

not afraid, and be not dismayed followed the call “to be strong” (2Chr.32: 7). Hence the strength spoken of in the Old Testament was physical because their battles were physical. Whereas today the need to be strong is spiritual, because we are in a spiritual battle (Eph.6: 12). Hence, Paul concludes his letter to the Ephesians with a note: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (verse 10).

* Therefore, the call to be strong is **always** on the basis of the Lord’s might. And today His strength is for believers to war in a spiritual battle, whereas in David’s time it was physical.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* For those who are fathers to spiritual sons and war in this spiritual warfare, be challenged and encouraged to charge your sons to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. That, as Paul charged Timothy (his son in the faith) that they “mightest war a good warfare” (1Tim.1: 18) so for those who are young sons in the faith, be encouraged to be strong “in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2Tim.2: 1).

2. Before David died he charged Solomon to show himself a man.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 2 “I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man”.

Context & setting of our verse.

Same as our previous point.

Application of verse today.

* Paul taught the church that in a Christian family there is a man and a woman, and “the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man” (1Cor.11: 3). Hence when a father is giving counsel to his son today it would be a good thing for him to encourage him to “shew thyself a man”, to take the headship when he has a family. Hence, our verse is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* “Just because you see a lot of guys letting their woman ‘wear the pants’ in a relationship, it doesn’t mean that it’s the right thing to do....These days, many women are heavily involved in changing the world, building their career and making a difference. However, regardless of her achievements...she wants to know that you’re ‘the man’ and that she can relax into being a woman around you...Most women want to know that the man is steering the ship and is clear on which direction they are headed and how they are going to get there. A woman wants to support her man and help him achieve whatever it is that he wants for the two of them.”

* I remember working at Corys Electrical and one of the staff that was married was clearly a man that was “under the thumb” as the saying goes. His wife ruled the roost, she wore the pants, and he had ceased his role of being head. Hence he no longer took the role of a man in the home.

Learning from our Illustration.

* For society to be strong, men need to be men, and lead. In the church, the body of Christ, where women lead a congregation they are being disobedient to the scriptures and assuming a role that God never gave to them. The Lord ordained a man to be head of his home and a man to rule over and feed a congregation. When a woman rules in either position, the man has forfeited his God-given charge of being a man, and has shown himself to be weak.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* For those who are fathers remember to charge your sons, to encourage your sons to “shew thyself a man” (Rom.1: 26). And for those who are sons be encouraged to show thyself a man, because if you follow through with this in your life, and you have your own family then there will never be any confusion in the home as to who is wearing the pants, you will never be identified as being “under the thumb” and you will be taking up your God-given role as being head over your own home. So show yourself a man, and fulfil all that God has for you, as a man. And let us also remember that the head of every man is Christ, and with that in our hearts when the time is of God, charge your sons, and your grandsons to show themselves as a man.

3. David charged Solomon to keep the charge of the Lord.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 3 "And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself".

Context, setting & meaning of our verse.

* Our context is the same as our first two. To establish a meaning of our verse we ask: what does it mean "to keep the charge of the Lord?" Three of the verses where "charge" is used the word "commandments" also appears as we see in Deut.11: 1, Josh.22: 5 and our verse in 1Kg.2: 3, which indicates that when God gives a charge he requires the hearers to listen and do, to walk, and to obey. The Hebrew word that is used in Deut.11: 1 and 1Kg.2: 3 is also translated "to watch" and "to safeguard", hence there is a sense of keeping the commandments of God close to you.

Other scriptural support.

Deut.11: 2, Josh.22: 5

Scriptural examples.

* Moses and Joshua commanded the children of Israel to "love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always."

Application of verse today.

* The New Testament does not use the same terminology as David did, but Paul says something similar where he encourages Timothy to: "keep that which is committed to thy trust" (1Tim.6: 20), and as we know Timothy was Paul's son in the faith, and hence our point is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* In the USA you see men taking their sons to the football, the baseball, or leading by example and buying possessions. And so they leave their son a legacy of loving sport, being entertained and accumulating what their heart desires.

* If a father in the faith had an opportunity to say one thing to each son in the faith what would it be? Obey the law of God, so where the scriptures say, "thou shalt not covet" (Ex.20: 17), the son obeys, and where the scriptures say, "honour thy father and thy mother" (verse 12), the son obeys.

Learning from our Illustration.

* David encouraged his physical son to keep the charge of the Lord and Paul encouraged Timothy, his son in the faith to keep that which he has committed unto him. A father in the world gets to choose what he passes onto his son, as we see with my earthly father who passed on no charge to live by, other than from his example where he did that which was right in his own eyes. But a believer only has one charge for his son, and that is to "keep the charge of the Lord". For David that meant: "walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses." And for us today that means we are to keep that which Paul committed unto the church.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* If you are not a parent, have you ever been given a summary of what your father expects from you? If you are a parent or a grandparent, have you ever sat down with your son or grandson and encouraged him to keep that which is essential in life? A summary that might include: obey the law of God, or simply "keep the charge of the Lord"? Let us all be challenged to ask the Lord for wisdom on what to say prior to us going home to be with our Saviour, and any other time that the Lord makes available. And for those without children consider what you might say to those whom the Lord brings along as your sons in the faith. Be challenged this day to consider words that align with the word of God and will cause those who hearken to those words to be obedient to the Lord. And remember David's words to his son were: "keep the charge of the Lord thy God", amen!

A summary of our points detailing what David passed on to his son Solomon.

(1) be thou strong, and (2) show thyself a man, and (3) keep the charge of the Lord.