

10th of January 2016

Walk in all the ways of God and prosper (Pt 7 David).

Introduction.

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

From our previous study we covered three points that covered 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.

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

1. Walk in the ways of the Lord that you may prosper.
2. Walk in all the ways of the Lord so that He will fulfil all that He has promised.
3. Ask God to bless men according to their works.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Walk in the ways of the Lord that you may prosper.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 3 "And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways...that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself".

Context & setting 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 points.

* The scriptures record that 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. David commanded his son Solomon to be strong and show himself a man (verse 2), to keep the statutes and judgments as written in the law of Moses. Why? In verse 3 David says "that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest and whithersoever thou turnest thyself." Hence, David's point to his son was, if you want to prosper in your life then obey the commandments of the Lord thy God.

Other scriptural support.

Deut.29: 9 & Josh.22: 5.

Scriptural examples.

* When Solomon obeyed his father's charge and walked in the ways of the Lord he was blessed with riches (1Kg.10: 23 & 2Chr.9: 22).

Application of verse today.

* Every believer that walks in the ways of the Lord today is not honoured for his obedience with financial riches or material possessions. Hence this verse is not doctrinally applicable to us today, but we make a spiritual application, because we find in Paul's writings to the church that when a believer departs "from iniquity" (2Tim.2: 19), & flees "youthful lusts" (vs. 22) "he shall be a vessel unto honour" (vs. 21), hence he will prosper in the things of the Lord.

Illustration.

* For a man to prosper in this life, according to my earthy brother and most worldly men, you need to get a job that pays good money so you can prosper financially, which will enable you to prosper with all manner of material possessions. So my brother's charge to his children will most likely include: "get a well-paying job and work hard to earn lots of money".

Learning from our Illustration.

* The worldly thirst for riches, for prosperity, has, like many other worldly lusts, gradually crept into the churches. However, when a preacher preaches prosperity for his congregation when they tithe 10% of their earnings based on the Old Testament instruction to the nation of Israel (Gen.28: 22 & Deut.14: 22) then the preacher only demonstrates his **inability** to rightly divide the word of God. In doing so they bring their congregation into bondage to the law, and deny the liberty that is in Christ (Gal.2: 4), especially when the Old Testament instruction to tithe is specifically removed by Paul (see 2Cor.9: 7). And we find that Paul uses the word prosper twice in his epistles, and it refers to everything we have being what God has prospered for us (1Cor.16: 2), and the work

prospering (Rom.1: 10). Therefore, today, blessings that a believer receives are spiritual (Eph.1: 3), and they are laid up for him in heaven (2Cor.5: 1-4 & Jn.14: 2).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Riches are not a sign today of our obedience but a sign of God's grace, His mercy, and His love for us. He can give when we are being good children or naughty children, so do not get fooled into thinking that just because you are not being given riches you are disobedient, or just because you are being given riches means you are being obedient. However, if the work is prospering to God's glory then that is an indicator that the work is what God has called you to do, because He is bearing fruit (1Cor.3: 7). Be encouraged to review your actions in light of the scriptures and if you walk in the ways of the Lord you will prosper, the Lord will give you spiritual blessings, rewards in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so walk in the ways of the Lord and prosper.

2. Walk in all the ways of the Lord so that He will fulfil all that He has promised.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 3 & 4 "And keep the charge of the Lord...That the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me..."

Context & setting of our verse.

* The reference to "continue his word" is similar to a promise of the Lord. Hence our point that David was asking his son to keep the charge of the Lord that God would fulfil what He promised.

Other scriptural support.

Ex.19: 5.

Application of verse today.

* God has not promised us a king on the throne of David if we walk in His way, and neither is our salvation based on whether or not we walk in the ways of the Lord once we are saved. Hence we make a spiritual application of our verse for today, such that if we walk in His ways He will fulfil all that He hath ordained (Eph.2: 10). And recognising that God has for each of His children His perfect will, His acceptable will, and His good will, we suggest that our obedience to God will determine which is worked out in our lives (Rom.12: 2).

Illustration.

* A Calvinist believes that God chooses those who are to be saved and those who are to be damned, and those who are saved cannot resist His grace. But is this what the scriptures say?

Learning from our Illustration.

* NO! A man hears the good news, and chooses to believe it or not (Rom.10: 9-15 & Jn.3: 36). For those who choose to believe, and take their first step in walking with the Lord today, that first step is to believe the gospel, the good news for this age; the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (1Cor.15: 2-4). When a man takes that first step then God will do all that He has promised, and he that was once lost will be in the KOG, and in the body of Christ, forever saved from the wrath of God, and imputed with the righteousness of Christ.

For a person who has been walking with the Lord, if they fall away, God will continue to fulfil His promise of eternal life, but His promised rewards are not given for disobedience.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* For those of us who know believers that have once believed and now are fallen away, they are saved from eternal damnation in hell, but they are not bearing fruit that will earn them rewards in heaven. IF one of these backslidden saved men were to die whilst being backslidden would they go to hell?

* NO! Unless they have believed in vain, because if they have **not** believed in vain, they will be in the body of Christ, and God will fulfil all that He has promised for those who believe Him.

Be encouraged today to walk in all the ways of the Lord and He will fulfil all that He has promised.

3. Ask God to bless men according to their works.

Supporting verse.

1Kg.2: 7 "But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother."

Meaning of our verse.

* Our verse is one of five verses (5–9) where David says to his son Solomon to repay those who dealt with him according to their works, according to how they have treated him. In our verse 7 Barzillai showed kindness to David when he fled from Absalom (2Sam.17: 26 – 29), and so David asked Solomon to show kindness unto the sons of Barzillai. And verse 8 Shimei had cursed David with a grievous curse (see 2Sam.16: 5 & 7), David asked Solomon "his hoar head bring down to the grave with blood."

Other scriptural support.

* Christ said the opposite: "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you" (Lk.6: 28).

Application of verse today.

* The Lord teaches us to bless them that curse us, and you may think that such counsel contradicts David's instruction to his son Solomon where he asks Solomon to pay back (physically) what others had done; good for good, evil for evil. When we look at Paul's remembrance of Alexander the coppersmith in his letter to Timothy, Paul provides an example to the church to ask the **Lord** to reward those who do evil against us, to reward them according to their works (2Tim.4: 14). And given that the Lord will reward everyone for their works, then the Lord could bring about physical things to discomfort Alexander or He could reward him spiritually, according to how he treated Paul, in doing so Paul respects that vengeance is the Lord's (Rom.12: 19). Hence Paul asks God to bless Alexander the coppersmith according to his works, which means he is asking for the same as David, but doing so through God outworking the consequences.

Illustration.

* Have you ever known a brother in Christ that chooses to walk contrary to the scriptures on a particular issue because he is blind to what the scriptures say, or his heart lusts for what he want? How do we deal with such a brother?

Learning from our Illustration.

* There is no point in labouring over an issue in the scriptures if a brother cannot see, or his heart is getting in the way of his understanding the truth. And IF you continue to believe that you are correct then you can walk away, you could reward him for his blindness, or you could simply pray and ask the Lord to reward the brother according to His works. That way, if you are wrong the Lord will bless the brother for his obedience, and if you are correct then the Lord will bless the brother according to his disobedience. And it may be days, it may be weeks, or months, or years until the brother sees the outworking of God's blessings. But you can be certain that the blessing **will** be according to the truth of your brother's actions, and not what you believe to be truth.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Keep out of God's territory when it comes to rewarding a brother for his deeds, unless it is doing him good. Be challenged to pull back your fleshly response, whether the brother has cursed you as Shimei did to David or hindered the work as Alexander did in Paul's example. And be encouraged to ask God to reward them according to their works. Then whatever God brings upon them, is His justice, His will, and to His glory, and you have simply asked the Lord to outwork a blessing according to their works. If good, it will be what they deserve, if evil, it will be what God's justice requires. So, ask God to bless men according to their works, and may God be glorified.

Summary of points

1. Walk in the ways of the Lord that you may prosper.
2. Walk in all the ways of the Lord so that He will fulfil all that He has promised.
3. Ask God to bless men according to their works.