

Strong Faith to Change
2 Kings 18:1-12, Pew Bible p. 324
April 7, 2024

I. The Blessing of Changing for God (V. 1-8)

- A. What strong faith changes us from:
1. High Places – worldly idols we have disguised as God.
 2. Asherah – worldly idols we have added to God.
 3. Bronze Serpent – God’s gifts we have idolized over God.
- B. What strong faith changes us to:
1. Exclusive trust
 2. Faithful obedience
- C. Strong faith to change for God awards us the blessing of knowing Him.

II. The Curse of Ignoring God (V. 9-12)

- A. There is no way to have strong faith in God apart from obeying His Word.
- B. Ignoring God will remove from us the blessings of obedience.
1. His presence
 2. His protection
 3. His provision

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Kings 18:1-12.
2. What kinds of idols do we see in verse 4? Why were people worshipping them? What kinds of idols do people have today and why?
3. Has God ever inspired you to destroy an idol in your life, as He did King Hezekiah in verse 4? How did He show you what it was, and why were you drawn to it?
4. What role does obedience to God's law play in being in right relationship with Him, according to verses 5-6? How can you get better at holding fast to the Lord through His commandments?
5. What role does trust in the Lord have in being in right relationship with Him, according to verse 5? What sort of things does it look like Hezekiah had to trust God with? What sort of things do you need to trust God with now?
6. Compare the blessings that Judah experienced in verses 1-8 and the destruction that Israel experienced in verses 9-12? Why was the outcome of these two countries so different? What sort of blessings can we expect from following God's way today? What sort of fallout should we expect if we ignore God's way?
7. Pray for our church members to have a strong faith to change according to God's word and not the ways of the world. Come to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00–6:30 pm in Worship Center Room 103.

John 8:34-36 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- Praying for those seeking salvation but buried under sin, that they may experience true conversion through God’s grace and mercy.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Glendale, Arizona.
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- PRAY for family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
Sharon L. (children & grandchildren); Marge D. (son, Matthew); Rezwana D. (parents); Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); Sophia W. (husband); Ida S. (granddaughter & her husband); Charity M. (daughter); Kayla P. (nephew, Jordan); Gary & Betty B. (grandchildren & siblings); and V. family (Ashley & Jesse); Michelle LaM. (son)
- PRAY for families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Gary & Betty B. (her sister); Dick & Peggy T. (nephew); and Stan & Lori F. (his mother)
- PRAY for those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health); Leon V. (chemo); Jan B. (health); Kelly J. (health); Debbie P. (health); Debbie B. (health); Marge D. (health); Rita H. (health); Mimi M. (health); Dick T. (health); Michelle LaM. (health); Kathy W. (heart & other health concerns); Helene D. (eyes/shoulders); Peggy T. (physical therapy); Ray & Sue J. (health & other issues); Matthew M. (job loss); Ann C.-W. (headaches & vertigo); Sherri O. (surgery recovery); April H.-F. (new medication); Jeff S. (upcoming surgery); Laura M. (serious health issues); Ken R. (kidney stone recovery); Darlene R. (health); and Susan K. (heart surgery)
- PRAY for others that you are aware of.