



YOU CAN HAVE A LOT OF BIBLE KNOWLEDGE, BUT IT MAY NOT PRODUCED A CHANGE IN YOUR CHARACTER. WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE LIVES OF TWO YOUNG MEN TONIGHT WHO DID NOT RESPOND TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD. THIS PASSAGE OPENS UP WITH THE

DESTINATION OF THE LIVES OF TWO PRIESTS, HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS, AND THEN THE FOLLOWING VERSES GIVE DETAILS OF THEIR CORRUPTION. THE WORD "BELIAL" MEANS WORTHLESS. THEIR DESTINATION IN LIFE WAS BEING CALLED WORTHLESS IN THE WORD OF GOD WHICH WILL LAST FOREVER. INFORMATION ALONE DOES NOT PRODUCE CHANGE. TODAY I WANT US TO SEE THAT: WHAT YOU HONOR NOW WILL DIRECT YOUR FUTURE.

I. HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DISHONORED THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD. HOW?

A. THEY MADE WORSHIP ALL ABOUT THEMSELVES

THE PERSONAL LIVES OF THESE TWO MEN OVERFLOWED INTO THEIR ROLES AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS (AS IT ALWAYS WILL).

B. THEY MADE WORSHIP HARD FOR OTHERS

I SAMUEL 2:17 WHEREFORE THE SIN OF THE YOUNG MEN WAS VERY GREAT BEFORE THE LORD: FOR MEN ABHORRED THE OFFERING OF THE LORD. PEOPLE HATED GOING TO WORSHIP BECAUSE THEY HAD TO DEAL WITH THESE TWO PRIESTS. THEY WERE TERRIBLE LEADERS.

II. HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DISHONORED GOD'S STANDARD OF MORALITY.

A. THEY WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR WICKEDNESS

IT WAS THEIR OPEN TESTIMONY. MANY PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT IT, AND THEY DID EVIL UNTO ALL ISRAEL.

B. THEY WERE SEXUALLY IMMORAL.

III. HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DISHONORED THEIR AUTHORITY.

ELI, THEIR FATHER, CONFRONTED THEM ABOUT THEIR SIN. WHAT WAS THEIR RESPONSE? THEY DID NOT LISTEN.

IV. HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS DISHONORED GOD.

A. THEY DISDAINED THE LORD.

B. THEY DIED HONORING THEMSELVES

WHAT DOES GOD SAY THE RESULT IF DISHONORING HIM WILL BE? THEY WILL BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED. GOD WILL NOT REGARD HIGHLY OR FAVORABLY UPON THOSE WHO DO NOT REGARD HIM HIGHLY.

AFTER EXAMINING YOUR HEART IN THESE AREAS TONIGHT, COULD IT BE SAID OF YOU THAT YOU WOULD BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED BY GOD? HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS LED A WORTHLESS LIFE THAT RESULTED IN THEIR DEATH. DO YOU WANT THIS TO BE YOUR LEGACY? WHAT YOU HONOR NOW WILL DIRECT YOUR FUTURE. WHAT YOU ARE NOW IS WHAT YOU ARE BECOMING. HOBBIES NOW BECOME HABITS, AND HABITS BECOME LIFESTYLES. DO YOU HAVE A HABIT THAT IS DISHONORING TO GOD? IS THIS THE DIRECTION YOUR LIFE IS HEADED? TOWARD WORTHLESSNESS?...

ARE THERE SOME DECISIONS THAT YOU NEED TO MAKE RIGHT NOW? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO HONOR?

1. MAYBE YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU DISRESPECT THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD...

2. MAYBE YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU DISRESPECT GOD'S STANDARD OF MORALITY... ARE YOU IMMORAL IN YOUR MIND OR PHYSICALLY?

3. MAYBE YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU DISRESPECT THE AUTHORITY GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE...

4. MAYBE YOU'VE REALIZED THAT ONE OR ALL OF THE ABOVE THINGS IS AN EVIDENCE THAT YOU DO NOT HONOR GOD AS YOU OUGHT TO.

CONFESS!