

AMASIAH: A PATTERN FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE*2 Chronicles 17:16***INTRODUCTION**

- A. William of Wickham was appointed by King Edward III to build a stately church building. It was a great success and won him much fame. The architect wrote on one of the windows, "This work made William Wickham." Afterward, the King accused him with assuming the honor of the work. Wickham explained that the words on the window only meant to affirm that the work had made him known. Before the church building assignment he was poor; but now he was in good credit; before he was unknown, but now he was famous. Thus his work had actually *made him*. In much the same way our service "makes us" in the eyes of many. Our character leaves an indelible mark upon our work. People can look at our service and see our true character!
- In 2 Chronicles 17:16 we are introduced to a man whose work has "made him" to be known and loved by all students of the Bible! The passage describes the reign of King Jehoshaphat of Judah. Jehoshaphat's character was marked by these traits. ☞
1. Very religious (2 Chronicles 17:3, 4).
 2. Instituted a system of public instruction of the Law.
 3. Established courts of justice throughout Judah.
 4. Maintained a vast army.
- B. There is a man in Jehoshaphat's army who stands out from all of the others – Amasiah. This is the only mention of him in the Bible.
1. Nothing else is known of him than what is recorded here.
 2. He is forever remembered for one act – he offered himself willingly to the Lord's service.
 3. We do not know exactly what act he did to be so remembered in such a striking way, but it is wonderful to be remembered as he was!
 4. From this one brief verse we gain a valuable lesson on Christian service to God. Note the following points...

DISCUSSION






- I. ☞ **WHAT did he do? "OFFERED HIMSELF"**
- A. The King needed capable soldiers who would help build Judah's defenses. Amasiah realized he was qualified to help and was needed to help. He offered what he could; he offered self!
 - B. This example of self-sacrifice is greatly needed today.
 1. ☞ Cheerful, self-surrender is the secret of all service.
 2. Christianity was established by the spirit of self-sacrifice (John 10:17, 18). This same spirit is essential for the New Testament Church to continue existing today (Matthew 19:29).
 3. An unwillingness to surrender completely to Christ's will denotes a lack of conversion (Mark 8:34b; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).
 4. The words of Christ speak emphatically about the urgent need for self-sacrificing service (Luke 9:23ff, 57-62).
 - a. Too many fail to enjoy Christianity because they did not begin at the beginning. They did not give ALL of self!
 - b. Too many fail to enjoy Christianity because they hesitate to give the full sacrifice until their years are spent and energies are gone!
 - C. Amasiah offered himself without conditions. There is a great need for this attitude to be in the hearts of every member of this congregation!

- II. ☞ HOW did he do this? “WILLINGLY”
- A. Notice that this was the only captain given this compliment.
 1. We are left without explanation as to why Amasiah is thus highlighted.
 2. Possibly he came from a far part of the country and was a man of great skill.
 3. Possibly the words of the compliment enshrine some now forgotten memory of his cheerful courage or some heroic feat on the battlefield.
 4. Whatever the reason, the words speak clearly for this obscure man.
 - B. This is another important element of proper service!
 1. The citizens of God’s Kingdom are volunteers who show their willingness to serve by obeying God’s commands (Psalm 110:3).
 2. The degree of divine acceptance of our service is in proportion to the degree of willing service we offer.
 - a. To do the right thing with cheerfulness, eagerness, and abounding joy is to receive the fullness of divine acceptance, commendation, and reward (Matthew 25:34)!
 - b. Paul illustrates the blessing of voluntary service (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:7-9).
 - c. King Zedekiah illustrates the consequences that come from unwilling service (2 Chronicles 36:11-16).
 3. A willing attitude is critical to our service being acceptable to God!
 - a. Unwillingness destroys the character of our offering and robs it of all sacredness (2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - b. ☞ Reluctant Christianity is not true Christianity!
 - C. Amasiah WILLINGLY offered himself!
His example should encourage us to make sure that our service is exactly the same! It will be good if our objective in service is commended with these simple words – “We willingly offered ourselves” in service to the Lord!
- III. ☞ WHY did he do it? “TO THE LORD”
- A. This phrase suggests that Amasiah entered into service because of a spirit of devotion. His primary aim was to offer service to the Lord.
 - B. This long-forgotten man shows us that ALL service offered to God is forever remembered (Amos 8:7).
 1. In our service we are presenting God with precious treasures.
 2. There have been many services performed to Him which many think are useless (Matthew 10:42).
 3. A loving parent may lay away some article that her child has given her (i.e., a weed plucked by the roadside, some trifle of rare preciousness to the child). She opens the drawer and brings out the poor thing. Her eyes fill with tears as she sees not a worthless flower or object, but a gift of love. Rest assured that to a much greater degree our heavenly Father treasures the gifts of service we present to Him!
 4. There are cups of cold water, a widow’s mite, and much more that the world calls “rubbish” stored away in the treasure vaults of heaven!
 5. Christians need to realize that whatever service we are able to give to God is an “odor of a sweet smell” that delights our heavenly Father because it is offered “willingly to the Lord” (1 Peter 2:5; Philippians 4:18; Colossians 3:23).

CONCLUSION

- I. The world has forgotten “Amasiah.” He is an obscure name and most have never known him. He served in an obscure kingdom as an obscure soldier. However, God has not forgotten him! Here is his epitaph; his memorial to all generations. Notice the blessed results that came from

his service...

- A.  Approval by God.
Encouraged 20,000 to serve as well.
- II. Here are  the elements of true service to Jehovah God.
 - A.  The offering of one's self.
 - B. A willingness to serve.
 - C. An offering that is made to the Lord.
- III. There is a voice that sounds louder than the inspired Chronicler—it is the voice of Almighty God!  It matters very little what men may say about us and our service, but it matters greatly what God will say about us and our service ( Matthew 25:34-36)!