

2 Chronicles 29:3

First RPC Durham

I. The Priority of Obedience**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) Leading up to Hezekiah (reign of Ahaz): His idolatry (28:1-4), struggles (28:5), obstinacy (28:22), and sufferings of Judah (28:19)
- 2) Hezekiah's reign (727-699 BC): His faithfulness (29:2), prospering (31:20-21), humility (32:26), and peace of Judah (30:26)
- 3) The first works of Hezekiah's reign are to render obedience to God, according to His duty (Dt 17:18-20)

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Obedience to God is top priority (1 Thes 4:3; Lk 2:40; Mt 20:1)
- 2) There are common ways in which all alike are to obey God.
- 3) There are particular ways in which we are to obey God according to each of our particular stations and vocations.

C. Objections to the Text

- 1) Why must we continue to grow in obedience? (Dt 20:16-18).
- 2) Can't I just put off diligence and obedience for another day?
- 3) Why bother with obedience and reformation when our leaders are wicked? (Acts 17:30b-31; Isa 11:9).

D. Uses from the Text

- 1) Know where disobedience currently exists, as well as common temptations of ourselves and our day are (2 Cor 2:11b; Psa 57:1)
- 2) We must be devoted to obedience to God (Gal 3:11; *HC 86*)
- 3) Pray for and pursue obedience in our immediate jurisdiction.
- 4) We are to be regular in prayer for the obedience of others outside our jurisdiction.
- 5) We must be content to obedience, though the world hate and mock us (Jn 16:33)
- 6) Let us begin in our walk as Christians with our mind to the end.
- 7) It is never too late to begin afresh in our obedience to the Lord.

II. The Priority of Worship**A. Exposition of the Text**

- 1) Opening the doors of the house of the LORD (2 Chr 28:24)
- 2) Repairing the doors of the house of the LORD (2 Kgs 16:8, 18:16)

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) Reformation begins with a renewed zeal for purity in worship.
- 2) Worship is to be according to the prescription of God's Word alone (Mal 1:14; *WCF XXI.1*)
- 3) Delight and diligence in the Sabbath is a mark of true reformation (2 Chr 30:1; Isa 58:13-14)

C. Objections to the Text

- 1) But public worship is just one day a week, how can it be the most significant? (Ezk 46:9)
- 2) But private and family worship is just a small portion of the day, why would it be so important? (Mt 7:24-25).
- 3) But isn't all of life worship? (Answer: No)
- 4) How can we prioritize worship and the Gospel when we consider all the ills of society?

D. Uses from the Text

- 1) Consider the great priority of being faithful in public worship. (Mal 1:10)
- 2) Make diligent use of the Sabbath.
- 3) See the great priority also of family worship.
- 4) Be diligent and regular in private prayer (particularly), as well as Scripture reading and meditation. (Psa 55:17; Dan 6:10; Lk 22:39)

III. The Effect of Reformation**A. Doctrines from the Text**

- 1) The free offer of the Gospel (Jn 14:6, 10:7-9): A zeal for the preaching of God's Word boldly and broadly (Pr 8:1-3), for evangelism (Acts 17:16), and for missions (Jn 1:29; 2 Thes 3:1)
- 2) The strengthening of right doctrine (2 Tim 1:13; Jude 1:3; Jer 6:16a)

B. Warnings against misapplications of the Text

- 1) Antiquity is not inherently a mark of faithfulness (1 Tim 6:3-5)
- 2) The sinful innovations in the church and culture are not really new (Isa 8:20)
- 3) We do not need to start from scratch with each generation, but improve upon what has come before (Psa 145:4)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to delight in the glorious Gospel and gracious work of God set before us this Lord's Day and every day (Psa 116:1-5, 8)
- 2) We are to grow in conformity to the Word of God (Rom 12:2)