

ANCIENT ADMONITIONS APPLICABLE TODAY

I Chronicles 28:9

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Unfortunately many Christians don't like to study the Bible...and, I mean period! Especially the Old Testament. For example, I've heard some say...
 - A. "It's too dry and boring."
 - B. "There's too much blood and gore."
 - C. "Those people lived so long ago that it really doesn't address the circumstances and problems of life in the 21st century...It's not relevant for today!"
2. I can only respond to such with one word...BALDERDASH! (i.e., nonsense: language, conduct, or an idea that is absurd or contrary to good sense, Webster).
3. Balderdash applies to Bible study in general, and also to the Old Testament (Hos. 4:6).
 - A. "A page of history is worth a pound of logic." (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1902-1932)
 - B. "Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it." (**Rom. 15:4**: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."; **I Cor. 10:11**: "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.").
4. Today I want to look at some 3,000 year old admonitions that remain valuable even today:

******(**I Chron. 28:9**: "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.").
5. **3** Let's consider the lessons we can learn from these ancient admonitions.

II. DISCUSSION:

I. Know God:

- A. David told Solomon "know the God of your father." "Know" means:
 - (1) To have an understanding of (gnosis). E.g., I know (understand) that fire is hot.
 - (2) But the Greeks had more than one word for "know."
 - (a) Another Greek word for "know" (epignosis) means "precise and correct knowledge" (Thayer); knowledge that "implies a special participation in the object known" (Vine; **2 Pet. 1:3**: "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"; **2 Pet. 1:8**: "For if these things (i.e., **faith**→**knowledge**→**self-control**→**perseverance**→**godliness**→**brotherly kindness**→**love**) are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.").
 - (b) For example, I know (have an understanding of, i.e., gnosis) that fire is hot, but a person that has suffered third degree burns knows (understands through intimate participation, i.e., epignosis) that fire is hot!

- B. To really “know” God requires both! **2 Pet. 1:5:** “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge [gnosis],”
- C. But, many are like the Gentiles described by Paul in Romans 1:
- (1) God has clearly made Himself known, but they refused to truly know Him (vs. 19-21).
 - (2) Because of their sinfulness “they did not like to retain God in their knowledge” (v. 28).
 - (3) Today, most men and women are just like these Gentiles:
 - (a) God still clearly makes Himself known:

Psa. 19:1-3: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.”

Psa. 139:14: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”
 - (b) But they don’t really “know” God because they are bent on serving their own selfish desires.
- D. **5** How do we know if we really “know” God?
- (1) We must believe two things about God (**Heb. 11:6:** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”).
 - (2) We must keep His commandments (**1 Jn. 2:3-5:** “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”).
- E. Are you living a lie? **1 Jn. 2:4;** **Titus 1:16:** “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”
- F. It is possible to live this lie whether you are a Christian or not. In either case you will suffer dire consequences! **1 Jn. 1:8-10:** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”; **2 Thess. 1:7-10:** “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”

2. **6** Serve God:

- A. When we consider the importance of knowing God it should not come as a surprise that David then told his son to “serve Him.”
- B. To serve God means to give Him our respect and obedience; something God has always required (**Prov. 9:10:** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”; **Prov. 1:7:** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”).
- C. David also told Solomon “how” to serve God:

- (1) “with a loyal heart”: Our service to God is not something we can only perform when the mood strikes us!

Matt. 6:24: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matt. 4:10: “For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

Eph. 6:6: “but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,”

Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”)

Divided loyalty is no loyalty at all! **Jas. 1:8:** “...a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

- (2) “with a willing mind”: Many look upon service to God as a great drudgery!

Mal. 1:13: “You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it, says the LORD of hosts.”

Psa. 122:1: “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’”

Psa. 119:103: “How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

1 Jn. 5:3: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Gal. 6:9: “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

D. How is your service? 2 Cor. 13:5

- (1) Do you really love the Lord?; **Mk. 12:30:** “‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

- (2) How do you show your love? Jn. 14:15

3. **7** Remember the Lord Searches Your Heart:

A. David’s first two admonitions to Solomon (know God, serve God) are both predicated on the next one, “for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts.”

B. We need to realize how the Lord really views us (**1 Sam. 16:7:** “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”).

C. We truly are what we think! Prov. 23:7

Matt. 15:19-20: “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

Prov. 4:23: “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

D. It’s an awesome thing to ponder how God knows every thought and intent of our heart and will judge us for them!

Psa. 139:1-6: “O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.”

Heb. 4:12-13: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Jer. 17:10: “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

Rom. 2:16: “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”

E. Are you ready for all your secrets to be made known?

1 Cor. 4:5: “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.”

Lk. 12:1-3: “In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.’”

4. **8** Seek the Lord:

A. Since God knows our heart, David tells Solomon his only logical and appropriate response is to “seek Him.”

B. Very importantly, David tells Solomon that “if” he will seek the Lord, “He will be found by you.” The same is true today!

Acts 15:16-17: “After! this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.”

C. God is not far from any man and can be found if we search:

Acts 17:26-27: “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;”

Rom. 1:20: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

But we must search for Him:

(1) Search with all our heart (**Jer. 29:13:** “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”).

- (2) Search with “an honest and good heart” (Lk. 8:15; Acts 17:11-12a).
 - (3) Search first and foremost (**Matt. 6:33**: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”; **Matt. 5:6**: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”).
 - D. Eternal life does not come to one by accident! It requires a diligent search! **Heb. 11:6**: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - E. What is your search in life? **Rom. 2:7-10**: “eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
5. **9** If You Forsake the Lord He Will Cast You Off Forever
- A. Lastly, David warns Solomon of the seriousness of heeding the previous admonitions, “if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.”
 - B. Can you imagine the utter terror if you hear these words from Jesus on the day of judgment:
Matt. 7:23: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”
Matt. 25:41: “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels”
 - C. “Forsake” suggests to give up, renounce, or leave; something that many, unfortunately, do!
 (1) Go back to living a worldly lifestyle:
Jas. 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
2 Pet. 2:20-22: “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’”
Rom. 8:6-8: “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
 - (2) Led astray by false teaching:
Gal. 1:6: “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,”
Gal. 3:1: “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth;,”
2 Tim. 4:1-4: “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in

season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

- (3) Grow lukewarm in their service (Rev. 3:16; Mal. 1:13; **Rom. 12:11**: “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”).
- D. **10** If we do God’s will He will never forsake us! **Heb. 13:5**: “He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”; **Isa. 41:10**: “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
- E. Therefore, we must be firm in our determination to remain faithful! **Heb. 3:6**: “but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if** we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”; **Heb. 10:35-39**: “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 ‘For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But **if** anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.’ 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. “
- F. If we forsake the Lord, He turns aside by casting us off forever! Seriously ponder the thought of being cast off forever! **Rev. 14:11**: “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”; **Matt. 22:13**: “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”; **Rev. 20:15**: “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

III. CONCLUSION: **II**

1. Do you think David offered his son good advice?
2. Is “A page of history worth a pound of logic?”

Do you know God?	Have you considered that God knows your heart?
Do you serve God?	Do you then seek the Lord?
3. If you answered no to any of those questions, the Lord will cast you off forever! **2 Thess. 1:7-10**: “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”
4. If you are not a Christian it is imperative that you become one:
5. If you’re a Christian and you’ve wandered from the fold of safety you also need to change! Acts 8:22
6. Be saved by obeying right now! **2 Cor. 6:2**: “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Adapted from a sermon by Johnie Paul Edwards entitled *An Ancient Father’s Admonition To His Son*, in *Gospel Sermons by Three Generations of Gospel Preachers*, Edwards Publishing, 1997, pp. 101-102.