

# SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Kings 18:1-8**. From Roy H. Enoch (05-22-1994).
- C. Hezekiah is justly considered as one of the greatest kings of the Southern kingdom of Judah.
  - 1. He did not follow in the footsteps of his wicked father Ahaz (2Chr. 28:1-4).  
*Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father had done. [2] But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made molten images for the Baals. [3] Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom, and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel. [4] And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.*
  - 2. He followed the example of David, a man after God's own heart (Psa. 9:1,2).  
*I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. [2] I will be glad and exult in Thee; I will sing praise to Thy name, O Most High.*
  - 3. It may seem strange that one coming from such an evil and ungodly father would turn out so well, as Hezekiah led a great formation in Judah in restoring God's true worship.
  - 4. In what we are told about Hezekiah, we can see the secret for a successful life.
- D. We will study six principles from these eight verses.

## I. FIRST, HE TRUSTED IN THE LORD.

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:5.  
*He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him.*
- B. We all place our trust in something.
  - 1. Since his father was king, he could have trusted political connections.
  - 2. As heir to the throne, he could have trusted wealth.
  - 3. He could have trusted in all the soldiers that protected the king and his family.
  - 4. He could have trusted in all of the idols his father served.
- C. What do we trust?
  - 1. Do we trust in some of these things that Hezekiah rejected?
  - 2. Do we trust the wisdom of men in science, psychology, or in nature.
  - 3. Do we trust our own judgment and follow our own desires?
  - 4. God's word describes the destruction of those who follow these kinds of things.
- D. Trusting the God who created the universe and everything in it is more reasonable than these other things (Psa. 118:8).  
*It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man.*
  - 1. Wealth is a poor risk (Mt. 6:19-21).  
*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; [21] for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
  - 2. This wisdom of man is not dependable (1Cor. 1:18,19).  
*For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."*
  - 3. Hezekiah showed wisdom in trusting in the Lord.

## II. SECOND, HEZEKIAH WAS WISE TO "HOLD FAST TO THE LORD."

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:6.  
*For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.*
- B. Many "hold fast" to almost everything but the Lord:
  - 1. Some are clinging to social position and prestige.

2. Some focus on pleasure, and having their way.
  3. Others are always talking about their "rights" and how little they can get by doing.
  4. We need to consider the eternal consequences of our choices.
- C. God gave us various gifts and abilities to keep us close to Him (Eph. 4:11-15).  
 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, [12] for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. [14] As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; [15] but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

### III. THIRD, HEZEKIAH DID NOT DEPART FROM FOLLOWING THE LORD.

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:6.  
 For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.
- B. Following the Lord is to accept His directions to guide us in the way that we should go.
1. We need to follow directions for we do not know the way to live here for the greatest happiness and way to heaven.
  2. When the Children of Israel were ready to cross Jordan, Joshua told them to follow closely (Jo. 3:4).  
 "However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."
  3. Jesus is the "way, the truth and the life," and no one can come to the Father except by Him (Jn. 14:6).  
 Jesus said^ to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.
- C. We are following some guide for our lives.
1. Some follow their own ideas.
  2. Some follow false teachers such as the Pharisees (Mt. 15:13,14).  
 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up. [14] "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."
  3. We cannot get to the right place w/ the wrong directions.

### IV. FOURTH, HEZEKIAH KEPT THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD.

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:6.  
 For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.
- B. The Bible uses many figures to illustrate the one we obey:
1. Those who obey Him can call Him Lord or Master (Lk. 6:46).  
 "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
  2. Children should obey their parents (Isa. 1:2-4).  
 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. [3] "An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, *But* Israel does not know, My people do not understand." [4] Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him.
  3. Jesus described false teachers as children of the Devil (Jn. 8:44).  
 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

- C. We show who we really are by what we obey:
  1. Children of the Kingdom put that first in their lives (Mt. 6:33).  
“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
  2. We can choose to serve God or ourselves (Rom. 6:16-18).  
Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? [17]  
But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, [18] and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

## V. FIFTH, HEZEKIAH SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM UNHOLY ALLIANCES.

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:7.  
And the LORD was with him; wherever he went he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.
- B. His father, Ahaz, had made alliances w/wicked nations:
  1. This showed that he did not have faith in Jehovah.
  2. Those wicked nations turned against him and did not help.
  3. We are often betrayed by those in whom we place our trust.
- C. A Xian must also separate himself from alliances with the world in order to serve God:
  1. Some are slaves of pleasure and self-gratification.
  2. Some serve mammon or riches.
  3. Some want power and recognition by the world.
  4. Others will do anything to be popular.
- D. Only the Lord can give us the victory.

## VI. SIXTH, HEZEKIAH CONQUERED HIS ENEMIES.

- A. See 2Kgs. 18:8.  
He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.
- B. God gave him the victory:
  1. Our only hope of having a successful life is to stay w/the Lord.
  2. He will never leave us, and if we leave Him, He will accept us back if we repent.
  3. We can conquer our enemies if we are w/the Lord (Rom. 8:37).  
But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.
- C. He continued w/the Lord and the Lord gave him a great victory against the Assyrians:
  1. But in the sixth year of his reign, the Assyrians conquered Samaria because of their sin.
  2. In the 14th year of Hezekiah’s reign, the king of Assyria returned and conquered all of the fortified cities of Judah and Hezekiah gave him all of the gold of the temple and the king’s treasury.
  3. The Assyrians still came up to Jerusalem and called for their surrender.
  4. Then Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, and He slew 185,000 of the Assyrians in a night and delivered Jerusalem.

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We can overcome temptation and be successful if we will turn to the Lord and serve Him faithfully.
- B. The secrets of Hezekiah’s success are given in 2Kgs. 18:1-8:
  1. He trusted in the Lord (18:5).
  2. He held fast to the Lord (18:6).
  3. He did not depart from following the Lord (18:6).
  4. He kept the commandments of the Lord (18:6).
  5. He separated himself from unholy alliances (18:7).
  6. He conquered his enemies (18:8).

- C. This kind of success can be in our lives spiritually if we will also follow these steps.
- D. Are you having a successful life?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.