

The Last Words Of David

Introduction. Last words from great people are always worth listening to. The final chapters of 1 Chronicles tell us much about David. It is here that he presents his son Solomon to the people, and gives him a solemn charge to be faithful to the Lord.

These are lessons we need to take to heart. One day we will all face death. Death is the great equalizer among men. It defaces the fascination of the beautiful. It breaks the lamp of the wise. It withers the strength of the might. It snatches the store of the rich. Will death be victorious over us?

I. *David's Disappointment*

- A. David wanted to build the temple, but God opposed him (1 Chronicles 28:1-8).
 - 1. Instead of complaining, David helped Solomon to do the job.
 - 2. He prepared the plans and materials to get the work done.
- B. This is exactly the disposition we need to show in the church today.
 - 1. We need humble Christians who will serve one another in love, building up the church in this generation, making it easier for the next generation (Galatians 5:13).
 - 2. Disappointments are the common lot of all men. But disappointments need not discourage your good work in Christ (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:7, 14; 1 Peter 2:12).
 - 3. Nehemiah had to rally the people from discouragements in rebuilding (Nehemiah 4:9-13). But as we direct our attention to the Lord's work, strengthen ourselves in the faith and humbly serve others, we will not be discouraged (2 Corinthians 4:7-11).

II. *David's Directions*

- A. Following God is not a casual affair (1 Chronicles 28:9-21).
 - 1. David told his son to carefully follow all the commandments of God.
 - 2. Solomon had all the physical materials and workman he needed to build the temple.
 - 3. But he needed to have a loyal heart, otherwise God would not bless Him.
- B. What good would a beautiful temple be if the king was disobedient to God?
 - 1. He did not maintain a perfect heart before God, but worshiped false gods and loved many foreign women (1 Kings 11:1-8).
 - 2. How important it is to have our hearts right with God -- for our sake and for the sake of our family too.
 - 3. If we are not faithful to God, what will happen to our children and

grandchildren? They will be lost, as we are!

- a) We must remain faithful until death (Revelation 2:10).
- b) We must fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12).

III. **David's Devotion**

- A. He set the right example by giving to the work of the temple (1 Chronicles 29:1-9).
 1. He challenged the people to do the same, reminding them they were giving to God, and that it was an act of worship.
 2. Their response was to give willingly and generously to the work.
 3. Nothing has changed here for us. We must give liberally, lovingly and lavishly to the work of the Lord to help build up the Lord's church (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
- B. The Lord's church must be made up of devoted people.
 1. We must devote more than money. If we are to grow, then giving, prayer, study of the Bible, attendance and telling the gospel to others must become preeminent.
 2. In 2 Samuel 24:24, David refused to offer to God that which cost him nothing. If our sacrifice to God would cost time, money and effort, would we do it?
 3. How we would grow if we had greater devotion to cause of Christ (Romans 12:11)! Can we be like those we see in the Bible (1 Corinthians 16:15; 1 Timothy 5:10)?
 - a) Can we deny ourselves (Luke 9:23-26; 1 Corinthians 15:31)?
 - b) Can we discipline ourselves (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-32)?

IV. **David's Delight**

- A. When your heart is right, then praise will most assuredly come (1 Chronicles 29:10-25).
 1. We will recognize that God is great (vss. 10-12).
 2. God deserves glory (vs. 13).
 3. God has given much to us (vs. 14).
 4. Life is short and we must make it count (vs. 15).
- B. What is your delight?
 1. The word of God should delight us (Psalm 1:1-3; 40:8).
 2. The word of God should excite us (Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 174).
 3. The word of God should comfort us (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

V. **David's Death**

- A. David was a great king, and led a long life (1 Chronicles 29:26-30).
 1. But one day he died, and Solomon took his place on the throne.

2. God buries his workmen, but His work continues.
- B. We must be ready for the hour of death.
1. When we die, we want to know that we have given our best to the work of the Lord, as did David and Paul (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
 2. Will we be known as people after God's own heart like David (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22)?
 3. We will then die in peace, knowing that when we close our eyes here, we will open them in a place where Christ is, and we will be with Him forever (Psalm 116:15).

Conclusion. Are you you ready to die? Don't fear dying; you need to fear living. Dying can never hurt a Christian. If you are in Christ, walking according to the Spirit and not the flesh, there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). If you are not yet in Christ, you are not ready to die (Philippians 1:21). You need to be baptized for the remission of your sins (Galatians 3:26-27).

Can we assist you in your obedience to Jesus, an even greater King than David? Don't die without Christ as your Savior and King. Put Him on the throne of your life today. William J. Kirkpatrick wrote the words, "King of my life I crown thee now, thine shall the glory be; lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow, lead me to Calvary." Lord, let your servants depart in peace.