Dear Open Door Family,

As we start out a new year it is time to stop and think about our relationship with our Lord Jesus. Are we growing? Are we more in tune with His desires? Are we doing those things which bring honor to our Lord? Let's look at these verses describing the reign of King Hezekiah.

2 Chronicles 30:18-20 (NLT) Most of those who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun had not purified themselves. But King Hezekiah prayed for them, and they were allowed to eat the Passover meal anyway, even though this was contrary to the requirements of the Law. For Hezekiah said, "May the Lord, who is good, pardon those [19] who DECIDE TO FOLLOW THE LORD, the God of their ancestors, even though they are not properly cleansed for the ceremony." [20] And the Lord listened to Hezekiah's prayer and healed the people.

2 Chronicles 30:18-19 (NIV) ...May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who SETS HIS HEART on seeking God...

Because of an earlier wicked king the Temple in Jerusalem had been closed and the people of Israel had not been celebrating the Passover or obeying God's Law. King Hezekiah changed all that and led the nation back to belief in and obedience to the God of the Bible. For many this may have been the first time in their lives that they had actually celebrated the Passover which was one of the mandatory feasts. Most of them were ignorant of what the Old Testament Law actually required. I love the fact that Hezekiah prayed for them. He asked God to see the Intent and the Motivation of their hearts. They were trying to obey what they knew and they were setting their hearts to seek after God. They were making a Commitment to follow and obey God.

PRAYER: Lord, help me always to remember to make it my purpose, my goal, to SEEK after You. Help me to remember the Christian's life is never about rituals, it is always about YOU. Help me Not to get hung up on rules or traditions. Help me instead, to set my heart to SEEK YOU, and to fall more and more in love with you.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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