Dear Open Door Family,

I did not watch very much of the Basketball finals between Dallas and Miami. I do have to admit that I am glad that the Dallas Mavericks won. I had heard sports casters discussing whether or not an NBA player can ever be considered truly great or successful if he has never won a championship. And since there were several older players who had never won a championship it was exciting to see them play as a team and go on to win the championship. For some the measure of success is winning a championship or accumulating large amounts of wealth. For others it is a high-status occupation or numerous academic degrees. How do we measure success in the Christian life? As I was reading about King Hezekiah I came across these verses that really challenged me. Let's take a moment to look at them together.

King Hezekiah did...

2 Chronicles 31:20-21 *(NLT)...what was pleasing and good in the sight of the LORD his God. [21] In all that he did in the* ***service*** *of the Temple of God and in his efforts to* ***follow*** *God's laws and commands, Hezekiah* ***sought*** *his God* ***WHOLEHEARTEDLY****. As a result, he was very successful.*

2 Chronicles 31:20-21 *(HCS) ...what was good and upright and true before the LORD his God. He was DILIGENT in every deed that he began in the SERVICE of God's temple...*

King Hezekiah was a good king and verse 20 tells us that he did what was good; not just in the eyes of the people but even more significantly, he did what was pleasing in the sight of God. He understood that what mattered most was what God thought of him. So he was Diligent and Wholehearted as he SOUGHT to know God and His Word. He was also Diligent and Wholehearted in his SERVICE for God. What a great combination to seek to KNOW God with all your heart, to make every effort to Obey Him, and to Serve God without quitting. What was the result of life lived in this way? The Holy Spirit tells us through the writer of 2 Chronicles that Hezekiah was "very successful." He was successful because He tried to honor and SERVE God with ALL his heart. He was successful because he PURSUED knowing God through His Word. Hezekiah was successful because GOD CAME FIRST in his life and work and home.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you that You are worth pursuing. Thank You for the privilege of being able to open my Bible and hear You speak through its pages to my heart. Lord, may I respond with wholehearted devotion to You. May I seek to Know You, Serve You, and bring You Honor through the way that I live my life.

Pastor Mark Kieft

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