

## Heart - cont.

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A “perfect” heart is a heart of complete devotion and total commitment to the Lord. A perfect heart will keep the commands of God (1 Kings 8:61; 11:4), a perfect heart will walk in truth (2 King 20:3), and a perfect heart will offer willingly to the Lord (1 Chronicles 28:9; 29:9,19). A perfect heart will love the Lord with all the heart (Matthew 22:37-38).

When our heart is perfect toward the Lord, it will not trust in man (2 Kings 18:21; Psalm 40:4; 56:11; 146:3; Prov. 29:25; Isaiah 36:6; Jeremiah 17:7; see 2 Chronicles 13:18). The problem with Asa, in the last few years of his life, was that he began to fear man (Baasha king of Israel) and to trust in man (Benhadad king of Syria). He no longer trusted in the Lord.

### **A Heart Completely His**

Friend, have you completely turned your heart over to the Lord? You need to do this in conversion (Luke 14:25-33) and you need to do this in Christian service (1 Corinthians 16:15). May our devotion to the Lord never be transient - not just for much of our life - but for our whole life (Hosea 6:4; 13:3).

- Chris Reeves -

## - Word of the Week -

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“Forbear” (Gr. ἀνέχω) means to “hold up” or endure in the face of a difficult situation. As Christians, we will face difficult people and situations as we go through life and we need to use our inner spiritual strength to “hold up” and remain faithful to Christ (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13). When you face a challenge this week, hold yourself firm and erect, and forbear.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
290 Warfield Blvd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

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wbcoc.org

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Everyone Is Welcome!  
For More Information Call  
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By  
Chris Reeves  
(615) 389-3250  
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com  
TheGoodTeacher.com

# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# A Heart Completely His

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*For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him  
- 2 Chronicles 16:9 -*

Asa, the third king of Judah, was generally a good king at first (2 Chronicles 14:1 - 15:19). When you examine his life from the sacred scripture, you find that he:

- Was good and right (14:2)
- Took away the idols (14:3)
- Commanded Judah to seek the Lord (14:4)
- Removed the high places (14:5)
- Built fortified cities (14:6)
- Credited the Lord for peace (14:7)
- Prayed to the Lord (14:11)
- Obeyed the preaching (15:8)
- Renewed the altar of the Lord (15:8)
- Gathered all Judah for worship (15:9)

- Sought the Lord with all his heart (15:12)
- Removed his own mother (15:16)
- Brought in the dedicated things (15:18)

That Asa was generally a good king at first, there is no question. He even chose to be different from his father, Abijah, who was evil. We learn here that goodness is not automatically transferred by heredity (1 Kings 15:3; Ezekiel 18:20). Asa made the choice to be different and to be good.

But, we also learn that one's goodness can be spoiled after many years of success. If you keep reading the story of Asa, you find that he turned away from the Lord after thirty-five years of being good (2 Chronicles 16:1-14). Here's what he did:

- He foolishly trusted in men (16:1-9)
- He rejected the preaching (16:10)
- He oppressed the people (16:10)
- He refused to seek the Lord when he was diseased (16:12)
- He had a beautiful funeral which did not match his unfaithful life in the latter end (16:14)

## Lessons from King Asa

What can we and should we learn from this king?

First, we learn that the Lord stands ready to be on our side if we will give our heart completely to him in faithful living (14:7; 16:9). This is a great verse:

*"...Jehovah is with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you" (2 Chronicles 15:2)*

The Lord is constantly watching for people to help who have set their hearts perfectly toward him (Proverbs 15:3; Matthew 10:29-31). The Lord desires to help and deliver in time of danger and affliction (Matthe 6:13; 2 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 2:9). Why not let him?

Second, we learn that the Lord requires a heart that is completely his (14:7; 15:2; 16:9). The Lord is looking for a heart that is "perfect toward him". Here, "perfect" does not mean sinless, but loyal. He is looking for a heart that is "fully committed to him" (NIV), "loyal to him" (NKJV), or "completely his" (NASV).

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