

Transforming Daily
“...according to our deeds...”
Zechariah 1:6

Zechariah’s message to the postexilic remnant of Judah is very simple and very clear. His message is straight forward concerning their present conduct and that of their previous ancestry that got them where they were in the first place. Zechariah’s proclamation was, “Repent!” Even when there was clearly nothing to gain by the children of God to continue on their wayward course, they, in the rebellious spirit of their fathers and forefathers, still were “disinclined to acquiesce” to God’s Word. Zechariah gave several good illustrations of solid and sound reasoning in order to persuade the remnant to repent, but the 400 silent years still overcame them just the same.

Often I am told by adult believers that they will or will not do something because it would be offensive to their parents or grandparents or aunts or uncles. They are clearly more persuaded by their ancestry than the Bible or more specifically God’s Word. This is very dangerous ground on which to tread. When the Scripture speaks about honoring our parents and elders the context in which it is given is “as unto the Lord.” Especially as an adult believer, if honoring your parents’ is at the expense of your obedience to God, then the honor is in vain.

When I was in seminary one of the students was a converted Muslim who had to flee his country. The reason he had to flee his country was to save his life. His family and friends disowned him and certain people vowed to kill him. He was basically in protective custody by some officials of the school. It was a real threat. The worst part about it was the way he said that his mother treated him. He was all excited about his new found faith. Went home to tell his mother, and she turned her back on him and told him he was dead to her. Can you imagine your mother telling you that you are dead to her? He was heartbroken and not to mention immediately destitute. Some friends arranged for him to get to America where he enrolled in seminary. The good news is that part of his family (last I heard) including his mother had come to faith. What do you think would have happened had he followed in the steps of his forefathers?

What about you? Is Christ the Lord of your life as well as being your Savior? Are you more interested in pleasing your family or your God? What does your conduct indicate about your profession? The witness of the church will be judged by God according to our deeds (ref. Revelation chs. 2-3).