

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The god of convenience

By :

Jeroboam, worried about losing his authority as king to Rehoboam, devised a plan for keeping his people from having to travel to Jerusalem for worship. To accomplish his goal, Jeroboam *“made two calves of gold ; and he said unto them, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt’ And he set the one in Bethel, and the other in Dan” (I Kings 12:28-29).*

Jeroboam relied upon the tendency of people to do things out of convenience. He said, *“it is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem:”*. He placed his golden calves in two places where it would be convenient for worship. For those in the northern portion, they could worship in Dan. For those in the southern portion of the kingdom, they could go to Bethel for worship. The plan worked. But not for righteousness sake: *“And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan” (I Kings 12:30).*

What was right, was for the males to appear before God in Jerusalem three times a year for the feasts of unleavened bread, the

feast of weeks, and the feast of tabernacles (Deuteronomy 16:16). What was right was for the people to refuse to worship idols (Exodus 20:4-5). But convenience won out over righteousness in the lives of the Israelites. Sin resulted.

While these golden calves were placed in convenient places, do we today serve the god of convenience? Do we make sure we do the right thing, even when it might not be the most convenient thing to do?

We know it is right for us to assemble with the saints for edification (Hebrews 10:24-25, Col. 3:16, Acts 20:7, I Cor. 11: 20-29). But, do we attend only when we have had our sleep out, or we do not have too far to travel, or even more alarming, we don't have any other thing to do on that day? Plans and sacrifices had to be made for the people to make their pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Serving God today demands that we set priorities (Matt. 6:33) and carry them out, even when it is not so convenient.

We know it is right to withdraw our social contact with our brethren who persistently refuse the appeals to live according to

God's righteous standard (I Cor. 5:9-13, 2 Thess. 3:6-15, Titus 3:10, Matt. 18:15-17). But, is our lack of social contact with the brother withdrawn from due to the fact we did not have much contact with him anyway? Is it a matter of convenience, or is it due to the godly purpose to save the soul of the ones who persist in their sin, and stop their leaving influence from occurring among those who are striving to be faithful to Gospel.

One way to see if we have started serving the god of convenience or the true Righteous God is to see if we carry out God's instructions for withdrawal among those *with whom we have been close*. Do we deliberately withdraw pleasurable social interaction with the individual because it is right, regardless of who they are? Do we willingly carry out God's instructions that demand difficult and drastic measures, or do we serve the god of convenience?

May we never do things because they are convenient, but because they are right. The god of convenience will always lead us away from the path of righteousness. Beware!