

all the human indignation we can muster will not carry the day. The local fellowship will be strengthened and better able to maintain its witness and give its message when peace is in order and holiness is the practice of the community.

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## MESSAGE # 4: TAKE SERIOUSLY YOUR PLACE

Biblical Passages: 2 Chronicles 17:7 ff

### I. Introducing the Subject:

I moved to an Old Testament passage because, while it does not address itself immediately to the church, it is a characteristic passage in which the work of God is strengthened and successful as the Lord's people take the place and accept the responsibility He has given them in it. This account takes place in the days of Jehoshaphat, a good king albeit with some weaknesses that we can all identify. But my thought is not dependent on him although, as I have noted, it is an exemplary passage and in our age if we, as believers, take seriously our place in a fellowship and its testimony, we are on a healthy road. I cannot write these aspects out fully in this work but hopefully, if anyone reads it, that party can "put the wheels on the wagon and see how it runs."

II. Discussion: In consideration of this we must remember that there are certain classes of people and I mention two in particular: 1) those who feel they must do everything and 2) those who feel obligated to do nothing. Both extremes are wrong. In the New Testament community we must remember that every member of the body is gifted to serve God and His people and that it is when every member of the body takes that seriously that we are headed for better health. In the meantime,

A. Fulfill the duties given to you in the Word of God (17:7-9) This is a brief notation that will show us how the new king (*in his third year*) took seriously the task given and in fulfillment of the *kingly teaching of Deuteronomy 17-18 sought to have the spiritual side of the kingdom put in order..* The duties given you may be those that come directly from the Scripture or they might be some assigned within the fellowship. There is no point in trying to do another's work: fulfill your own duties to the fullest of your ability and you are working to insure the health of the body. (Compare this with Colossians 3