

**2 Chronicles 24 — “Starting Well & Ending Badly! 3 Lessons So You Won’t Be a Joash!”**

*How do faithful followers of God live well & end well?*

Paul —

Caleb —

David —

Consider how Jesus ended His life well:

John 12:27-36 –

1. He knew his **purpose** as to why He was on earth (27)
2. His foremost passion was for **GOD** to be glorified! (28)
3. He knew that by being lifted up, he’d draw men to himself **savingly!** (30-32)
4. He persistently called to sinners to **walk** in & **come** to the **light** for salvation (35-36)

Background to 2 Chronicles 24 on King Joash:

- *In this chapter (& in Chronicles as a whole), Ezra wants to encourage post-exilic Israel that even amidst great sin, apostasy & disobedience, God remains unswervingly faithful to His promises, His covenant, His loyal love, His goodness, & His plan for His people!*

**THESIS — One big point:** God is overwhelmingly faithful & righteously Holy! Even when His people are *not* faithful and holy. We’ll see this as we progress through the chapter and glean three lessons:

## **I.FOLLOW YOUR GOD! (1-16)**

Observe the beginning of Joash’s kingship:

His desire:

His mentor:

His work/repairs/restoration:

## **II.KILL YOUR PRIDE! (17-19)**

**2 Chronicles 24** — “*Starting Well & Ending Badly! 3 Lessons So You Won’t Be a Joash!*”

Proverbs 8:13 — “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.

**What’s the downward spiral of Joash’s life?** What are the steps that led to his doom?

1. **Alone** (isolation) — lack of accountability, oversight, leadership, care, shepherding
2. **Pride** — people bowed down to him, praised him, revered/honored him >> and he LISTENED to them [their flattery fooled him!]
3. **Indifferent** (toward worship) — he abandoned the Temple, forsook Yahweh & His worship.
4. **Idolatrous** (wandering heart) — began to serve the Asherim & the Idols >> even w/ God’s discipline/wrath/punishment
5. **Stubborn**/Brazen/Callous — *God (!)* sent prophets to them to bring them back (=repent).

**Take warning! Be on guard! Wage war with sin!**

❖ Careful! Once Jehoiada, Joash’s mentor and ‘discipler’ was gone, the king demonstrated his true character, that outward PIETY does not automatically grow inner righteousness.

❖ Mark it: external religiosity does not guarantee internal devotion & purity & integrity!

❖ It’s easy to “live for God” surrounded by the right people, but God’s people really live for His glory *from the heart* even when no one is watching and spurring him on!

### **III. FINISH YOUR COURSE! (20-27)**

Here we see Joash’s downfall. Mark it: He did *NOT* finish the course:

1. his prideful heart (vv.17-19)
2. led to his rejection of God (the rebuke) (v.19b)
3. led to his murder of the prophet (the murder) (v.21-22)
4. led to his defeat from God’s hand (the defeat) (vv.23-24)

**2 Chronicles 24 — “Starting Well & Ending Badly! 3 Lessons So You Won’t Be a Joash!”**

5. led to his execution in his bed (the death) (v.25a)
6. led to his disgraceful burial (the shame) (v.25b)

Hosea would counsel us: Let us press on to know the LORD (Hos 6.3)

The righteous has a refuge when he does (Proverbs 14.32)!

- How can we **summarize** all of this? How to start and END well? How to stay the course & finish well!  
4 precautions:
  1. **Prioritize the HEART**
  2. **Put off HYPOCRISY**
  3. **Pursue nearness to GOD**
  4. **Persevere in HOPE thru TRIALS** *(see Rom 5.1-5 on this!)*

**Martyn Lloyd Jones:**

“Reformation doesn’t mean scrapping the role of the Bible and putting up your own ideas and theories. It means the exact opposite. It means returning to the Bible...every reformation has been a return to the New Testament...that is the only hope tonight, and in this present age.”

**How to finish well, by Jerry Bridges:**

Four fundamentals. They are:

1. **daily time of focused personal communion with God**
2. **daily appropriation of the gospel**
3. **daily commitment to God as a living sacrifice**
4. **firm belief in the sovereignty and love of God**

Bridges continues: I want to inject another word for our consideration in the subject of standing firm or enduring to the end. That’s the word perseverance. The word perseverance is very similar in meaning to the word endurance, and often we equate the two. But there can be a subtle difference. The word endure means to stand firm, and that is the theme of this book. We are to stand firm. We’re not to be carried about with every wind of doctrine theologically. We’re not to go off to this and that and the other. We’re to stand firm. But we need to do more than stand. We need to move forward.

When Paul says, “I have finished the race” ([2 Timothy 4:7](#)), obviously he was talking about motion. And perseverance means to keep going in spite of obstacles. So when Paul says, “I have finished the race,” basically he was saying, “I have persevered.” We do need to stand firm, and Scripture over and over again exhorts us to stand firm. But remember, that’s more than just standing still. If we get that idea, we’ve missed the point. We must move forward. We must persevere. We must be like Paul and say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” May you and I be like the apostle Paul.

**COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY**

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 In the dawning of the King  
 He the theme of heaven’s praises  
 Robed in frail humanity  
 In our longing, in our darkness  
 Now the light of life has come  
 Look to Christ, who condescended  
 Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 He the perfect Son of Man  
 In His living, in His suffering  
 Never trace nor stain of sin  
 See the true and better Adam  
 Come to save the hell-bound man  
 Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
 Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 Christ the Lord upon the tree  
 In the stead of ruined sinners  
 Hangs the Lamb in victory  
 See the price of our redemption  
 See the Father’s plan unfold  
 Bringing many sons to glory  
 Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 Slain by death the God of life  
 But no grave could e’er restrain Him  
 Praise the Lord; He is alive!  
 What a foretaste of deliverance  
 How unwavering our hope  
 Christ in power resurrected  
 As we will be when he comes

**JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL**

Jesus, lover of my soul,  
 Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
 While the nearer waters roll,  
 While the tempest still is high:  
 Hide me, O my Savior, hide,  
 Till the storm of life is past;  
 Safe into the haven guide;  
 O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,  
 Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
 Leave, oh, leave me not alone,  
 Still support and comfort me.  
 All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
 All my help from Thee I bring;  
 Cover my defenseless head  
 With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
 More than all in Thee I find;  
 Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
 Heal the sick and lead the blind.  
 Just and holy is Thy name,  
 I am all unrighteousness;  
 Vile and full of sin I am,  
 Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,  
 Grace to cover all my sin;  
 Let the healing streams abound;  
 Make and keep me pure within.  
 Thou of life the fountain art,  
 Freely let me take of Thee;  
 Spring Thou up within my heart,  
 Rise to all eternity.

## PRAYER MEETING GUIDE

Segments of prayer & responsive singing, worship and prayers

### Section 1: ADORATION & THANKSGIVING

#### All glory be to Christ

*All glory be to Christ our king!*

*All glory be to Christ!*

*His rule and reign we'll ever sing*

*All glory be to Christ!*

When on the day the great I Am

The faithful and the true

The Lamb who was for sinners slain

Is making all things new

Behold our God shall live with us

And be our steadfast light

And we shall e'er his people be

All glory be to Christ!

### Section 2: CONFESSION

#### Jesus paid it all

*Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;*

*Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

I hear the Savior say,

“Thy strength indeed is small;

Child of weakness, watch and pray,

Find in Me thine all in all.”

*Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;*

*Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

For nothing good have I

Whereby Thy grace to claim;

I'll wash my garments white

In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

### Section 3: SUPPLICATION & DESPERATE CRIES

#### I surrender all

*I surrender all, I surrender all*

*All to Thee my blessed Savior*

*I surrender all*

All to Jesus I surrender

All to Him I freely give

I will ever love and trust Him

In His presence daily live