

1 Samuel 2:27-36

"Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 'Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? 'Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 'Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 'And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 'But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. 'Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. 'Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. 'And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread."

Count the Cost

How much does it cost? Many parents teach their children to ask this questions before they buy, in order to gain an understanding of material values. It is important for children to learn the value of a dollar, but how about eternal values.

Have you asked yourself these questions: What will it cost eternally when my child received five dollars for spending money and fifty cents for the offering plate? What will it cost eternally, when I insist on taking my son to ball or hockey practice at six a.m. on Saturday and we both sleep in and miss church on Sunday ,or for that matter, we forego worship altogether for sports activity? What will it cost eternally when my daughter hears me preach at her about better marks at school, but never hears me pray for her about her need for the Saviour?

Eli was a priest of God who indulged his sons more than he honoured God, as a result the Lord let him reap what he sowed: "Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honour your sons more than me... Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life" Eli suffered great eternal loss for his family.

God declares to every parent that His Words "shall be on your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way." This can only be accomplished when each parent has accepted Christ as personal Saviour and allowed God's Word to be the authority in the home. The Bible states "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he shall not depart from it." What set of values will your children be guided by when they grow older, material or eternal? Have you counted the cost eternally of refusing to let Christ be the centre of your home?

What is my response:
