



“How’s Your Heart?”

2 Chronicles 32:24-31

BACKGROUND

King Hezekiah was one of the good kings of Judah. He reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years (716 – 687 BC).

Hezekiah led his people through a series of religious reforms, reversing the evils introduced by his father Ahaz and leading Judah back to God. A highlight of Hezekiah’s reign was the celebration of the Passover, which had been neglected for years.

It is said of Hezekiah that he “trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him” (2 Kings 18:5). However, this week’s study shows that no one is immune from the dangers of pride. Pride was nearly Hezekiah’s – and the nation of Judah’s – undoing.

As we celebrate the birthday of our country, let’s do some self-examination. Perhaps even now God is testing us, to know everything that is in our hearts.



KNOWING GOD

- a) If you need more background on King Hezekiah, read **2 Kings 18-20** and **2 Chronicles 29-32**. Summarize what you see as Hezekiah's strengths and weaknesses.

- b) It is possible that "the Lord's wrath" mentioned in **2 Chronicles 32:25** was the invasion by Assyria described earlier in the chapter. How do you square God's wrath with his love?

- c) Why does God sometime test his people (**vs. 31**)? What is the difference between testing us and tempting us to sin, which **James 1:13** says God will not do?



GROWING TOGETHER

- a) What are some signs of a proud heart?

- b) What have you repented of this past week? Do you need to repent today? If so, of what?



SERVING OTHERS

- a) Independence Day is an appropriate time to evaluate the state of the church in America. Do you see any similarities between Hezekiah's situation in **2 Chronicles 32** and ours today?

- b) If American Christians were to lead out in repentance, what would that look like?

- c) How can you help stimulate repentance here at UPC?

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (**2 Chronicles 7:14**, NIV)