

forgiven of our sins when we repent, yet that does not remove the consequences we might have to suffer because of our failures. A person may be promiscuous, catch Aids, repent and be forgiven, and yet still die physically because of their sin. Sin has consequences. If we fail to repent when guilty of sin, God will reject us, not allowing us to be a part of His eternal kingdom. May the Lord help each of us to learn these valuable lessons from the example of Saul. **Jim Mickells**

It's Not Easy . . .

To apologize – **To** begin over – **To** admit error – **To** be unselfish – **To** take advice – **To** be considerate – **To** endure success – **To** keep trying – **To** avoid mistakes – **To** forgive and forget – **To** make the most of little – **To** maintain a high standard – **To** shoulder a deserved blame – **But** it always pays.

SELECTED

Notes and reminders:

Let us be praying for our Bible study classes and all efforts to learn more of God's word.

Also, continue prayers for those on our list, for those in authority, and for the free course of the gospel and obedient hearers.

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."
1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

Meeting times of the church

Sunday:

09:00 am Bible classes

10:00 am Morning Worship

5:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Hebrew 10:23—25 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some." But, exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Marietta church of Christ
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Jacksonville, FL 32220

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Glad Tidings

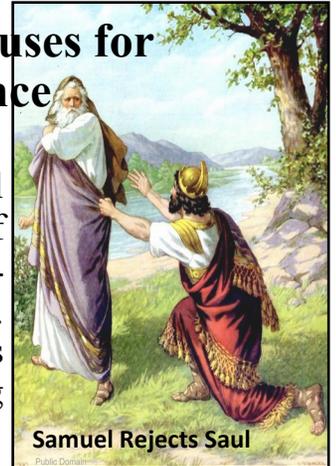
Romans 10:15

January 30, 2022

Saul's Excuses for Disobedience

In 1 Samuel 15 we read of Saul being rejected by God. No longer was he to be king over Israel because he had rejected the word of the Lord (v. 26). He was instructed by Samuel to go and completely destroy the Amalekites. Instead, he brings back Agag and the best of the sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs, etc. (v. 9). The Lord speaks to Samuel telling him what Saul had done and how He (God) had regretted making him king (v. 11). Samuel goes out to meet Saul on his journey back and the king begins to make excuses to this man of God for his failures.

In verse 13 Saul tells Samuel he



Samuel Rejects Saul

had performed the commandments of the Lord. The man of God asked why he heard the sheep bleating and the oxen lowing if he had followed the word of the Lord (v. 14). He was to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all they possessed (v. 3). The king next blames the people, stating they brought back the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to the Lord (v. 15). Samuel reminds him of his sin once again and asked why he had not obeyed God (vv. 16-19). Saul again proclaims he is innocent saying he had obeyed (v. 20). Then just as before he said the people took of the plunder so they could offer sacrifice (v. 21). Even after admitting he had sinned, he still tried to excuse his iniquity on the basis he feared the people (v. 24).

No matter how many excuses the king offered, God accepted none of them. I suppose Saul thought if he told Samuel he was bringing back this plunder to sacrifice to God this would make his failure okay. Notice the question asked, "So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams" (v. 22). God has always demanded obedience from His followers. Nothing short of that will suffice. The consequences of this man's sin was rejection from being king (v. 26). The record says Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of

his death (v. 35). Their relationship had also been severed because of sin. The prophet then anoints David to replace Saul as king over Israel in 1 Samuel 16.

Notice with me a few things I think we all can learn from this story. Not only can we benefit from good examples, but there are also valuable lessons taught from the faults of others as well. Paul uses Israel's failure to teach the Corinthians, and us as well, how they are not to live (1 Cor. 10:1-11).

We Must Totally Comply With God's Will.

Saul did part of what he was told to do. He did go up and fight against the Amalekites, killing all but Agag. They only spared the best of the animals, destroying everything despised and worthless (vv. 7-9). This did not meet the terms set forth in God commandment though. He was told to utterly destroy all they had and not to spare them (v. 3). If the Lord tells us to believe and be baptized (which He did), He expects us to do both (Mk. 16:15-16). When we are told to worship in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:23-24), both are necessary. When instructed not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as a body of the Lord's people, we better take this command serious (Heb. 10:25). We cannot pick what part of His will we want to obey and neglect the other. It is a serious matter when we fail to comply with all His teaching.

God Will Not Accept Excuses

Did the Lord overlook Saul's sin when he offered all those excuses? No, not at all! Neither will He accept ours when we fail to obey Him. I have heard some really poor excuses since I have been preaching for people's failures. One man tried to justify living in adultery by saying God surely wanted him to be happy. Jehovah wants our happiness, but not by living in sin! One lady was forsaking the assembly of the saints to stay home with her dog that had been hit by a car. I asked her what was more important serving God or her dog? I think you know the answer I received. These may be extreme examples, yet what excuse can one offer to God for not obeying Him? If He didn't accept Saul's excuses, what makes us think he will accept one offered by us?

Sin Has Consequences

God is willing to forgive sin when repentance takes place. Godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). True repentance will manifest itself by the fruit it bears (Matt. 3:8). There must be a change of mind which results in a reformed life. One turns away from sin and turns to God. If I have been forsaking the assembly, the fruit of my repentance will show itself by my presence at all the gatherings of the saints. The consequences of Saul's sin remained, even though he may have repented. He was still rejected from being king. We can be