



Saul's Last Stand: **Consequences of a Horizontal Life** **(1 Sam 28,31)**

Study Notes Handout: Week Eighteen

Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." (1 Samuel 15:10)

[Saul] inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him... (1 Samuel 28:6)

Introduction:

Throughout 1 Samuel we have seen a comparison made between the lives of Saul and David. Both men made their share of mistakes. However, David tended to live his life with a vertical focus, ultimately desiring to please and glorify God, while Saul tended to live his life with a more horizontal focus, desiring to serve himself and please others. Saul's life and death serve as a cautionary tale to warn us of the consequences of living a life for ourselves and not for God.

Sermon Outline:

1. A Horizontal Life Seeks its own Interests, but a Vertical Life seeks to honour God
2. A Horizontal Life is Unrepentant, while a Vertical Life seeks Forgiveness
3. A Horizontal Life Dies in Vain, but a Vertical Life Finishes Well

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

1. What do you think is the governing principal of your life? What guides your decisions and the way that you interact with others in your life?
2. In what ways is your visible spiritual life the same as what God sees in your heart? In what ways is it not?
3. Are you living a Vertical Life?



Personal Study Notes

Key Verses:

He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets.

1 Samuel 28:6

So on that day, Saul died together with his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men.

1 Samuel 31:6

The Tragedy of Saul (31:1-13)¹

SUPPORTING IDEA:

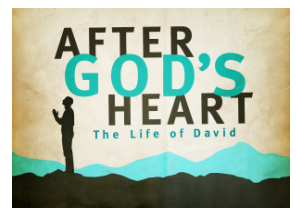
Saul and his sons die on Mount Gilboa in a battle against the Philistines. This paves the way for David to assume the kingship of Israel.

MAIN IDEA REVIEW:

David becomes a mercenary in the army of Achish, a Philistine king, while Saul continues his downward spiral toward the Lord's judgment. The book of 1 Samuel comes to a conclusion with the death of Saul and his sons at the hands of the Philistines.

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)



1. Stephen J. Andrews and Robert D. Bergen, *Holman Old Testament Commentary – 1, 2 Samuel*, ed. Max Anders, (Nashville, TN: Broadman Holman, 2009), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 193-94.