

The local newspaper provides folks with important information relative to government, sports, education, finances, weather, business, and death (obituary). One of the first things I read when I open the newspaper are the *obituaries*. Nearly every obituary written contains positive information about the deceased. If God wrote your obituary, what would He write/say?

God wrote and preserved in Sacred Script maybe the saddest obituary ever written: *“So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse”* (**1 Chronicles 10:13-14- ESV**). What can we learn from this inspired obituary?

First, we learn that sin is a transgression of God’s Law (**1 Sam. 15:10-24; cf. 1 John 3:4**). Saul had transgressed God’s Law by failing to completely adhere to all that His Lord had commanded, and as a result Israel’s first king lost both his throne and his life! Sin, if left unforgiven, will result in death (**cf. Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23**).

Second, we learn that when man chooses to disobey God and His Word they break faith with Him. Saul, throughout much of his forty year reign as king, served God faithfully, and as a result the Lord’s Spirit was with him. But in his rejection of God’s Word, the Lord rejected him (**1 Sam. 15:23**). He fell out of favor with God. It is possible, still today, for a man of God to turn back from following Him and thus fall from grace (**cf. 2 Pet. 2:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 10:12; Luke 9:62**).

Third, we learn that God alone must be sought in all matters pertaining to life and godliness (**1 Sam. 28:7ff; cf. 2 Pet. 1:3**). Saul’s rejection of God ultimately led him to turn toward worldly wisdom for guidance. Paul writes, *“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God”* (**1 Cor. 3:9**).

Finally, we learn that a breach of faith will result in total loss (**1 Sam. 15:28; 28:17**). Saul lost everything- his kingdom, sons, and his life! And if we choose to disobey God, we too will suffer total loss (**Rom. 6:23; 11:22**).

There is coming a day when our name is going to appear in the *Obituary* section of the local paper. What will be written of you? More importantly, what will God write? My prayer is that all of us will have lived in such a way that our names will be found written in the Lamb's book of life.

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