

# Push Back Darkness

Sunday Morning, October 28, 2012

## Thesis:

Like King Saul, Disobedience to God and His Word Leads Us Into Darkness and Despair. As Believers, We Are Called to Push Back Darkness and Walk in the Light of Christ.

## Introduction:

### I. King Saul Seeks A Medium

(I Samuel 28:1-19)

1 At that time, the Philistines brought their military units together into one army to fight against Israel. So Achish said to David, "You know, of course, that you and your men must march out in the army with me."

2 David replied to Achish, "Good, you will find out what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "Very well, I will appoint you as my permanent bodyguard."

3 By this time Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his city, and Saul had removed the mediums and spiritists from the land.

4 The Philistines came together and camped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel, and they camped at Gilboa.

5 When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid and trembled violently.

6 He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. 7 Saul then said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I can go & consult her." His servants replied, "There is a woman at En-dor who is a medium."

8 Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes and set out with two of his men. They came to the woman at night, and Saul said, "Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I tell you."

1

9 But the woman said to him, "You surely know what Saul has done, how he has killed the mediums and spiritists in the land. Why are you setting a trap for me to get me killed?"

10 Then Saul swore to her by the Lord: "As surely as the Lord lives, nothing bad will happen to you because of this."

11 "Who is it that you want me to bring up for you?" the woman asked.

"Bring up Samuel for me," he answered.

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, and then she asked Saul, "Why did you deceive me? You are Saul!"

13 But the king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?"

"I see a spirit form coming up out of the earth," the woman answered.

14 Then Saul asked her, "What does he look like?"

"An old man is coming up," she replied. "He's wearing a robe." Then Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed his face to the ground and paid homage.

15 "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Samuel asked Saul.

"I'm in serious trouble," replied Saul. "The Philistines are fighting against me and God has turned away from me. He doesn't answer me anymore, either through the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what I should do."

16 Samuel answered, "Since the Lord has turned away from you and has become your enemy, why are you asking me?"

17 The Lord has done exactly what He said through me: The Lord has torn the kingship out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David.

18 You did not obey the Lord and did not carry out His burning anger against Amalek; therefore the Lord has done this to you today.

19 The Lord will also hand Israel over to the Philistines along with you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me, and the Lord will hand Israel's army over to the Philistines."

2



## **II. There is Danger In Rejecting the Word of God!**

**(Deuteronomy 18: 9-14)**

9 “When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable customs of those nations.

10 No one among you is to make his son or daughter pass through the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery,

11 cast spells, consult a medium or a familiar spirit, or inquire of the dead.

12 Everyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and the Lord your God is driving out the nations before you because of these detestable things.

13 You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

14 Though these nations you are about to drive out listen to fortune-tellers and diviners, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do this. **Do Not Be Involved With Sorcery, Etc...**

**(I Samuel 15: 17-23)**

17 Samuel continued, “Although you once considered yourself unimportant, have you not become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel

18 and then sent you on a mission and said: ‘Go and completely destroy the sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have annihilated them.’

19 So why didn’t you obey the Lord? Why did you rush on the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord’s sight?”

20 “But I did obey the Lord!” Saul answered. “I went on the mission the Lord gave me: I brought back Agag, king of Amalek, and I completely destroyed the Amalekites.

21 The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder—the best of what was set apart for destruction—to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

22 Then Samuel said:

Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king.

## **III. We're Called To Push Back Darkness, Not the Light of Christ!**

**(Isaiah 50:10)**

Who among you fears the Lord, listening to the voice of His Servant? Who among you walks in darkness, and has no light? Let him trust in the name of Yahweh; let him lean on his God.

**Walk in Darkness? Have No Light?**

**(Luke 11: 34-36)**

34 Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light. But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness.

35 Take care then, that the light in you is not darkness.

36 If, therefore, your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be entirely illuminated, as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

**Eyesight Can Be the Problem!**

**(Ephesians 5: 8-11)**

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light—

9 for the fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—

10 discerning what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Don’t participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them.

**Reprove Darkness!**

### **Conclusion:**

**Like King Saul, Disobedience to God and His Word Leads Us Into Darkness and Despair.**

**As Believers, We Are Called to Push Back Darkness and Walk in the Light of Christ.**