

convinced of his own righteousness in the matter and would have taken the lives of those used to win the battle. This is a prime example of inconsistency and it will also be reflected in his dealings with David in which, on one hand, he treats him as an honored person and on the other, plans to kill him with a javelin thrust.

C. Failure to develop a constant relationship with the Lord...and I hardly need to say more than this. God is more of a convenience to Saul than a steady ally. I am not at all sure that the actions taken God-ward in chapter 14 were hypocritical for I think that persons acting as Saul did often think they are acting in the interest of God. But this relationship will see the shallowness when in the end of things it is to the witch of Endor he turns....feeling no companionship of God at the time.

III. Conclusion: James cautions us against or about the unstable man, the one whose heart is not fully committed to God and who makes his decisions on a basis other than yieldedness to the Divine program. The warning is equally good in both testaments. Note that Saul did have some great victories in chapter 14 and that the Lord was very much with His people. We can only fancy at what might have been achieved if the King had made God his anchor and sought to serve Him primarily. May our judgment and actions be those of truth, obedience, and dependence on the Lord.

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## **MESSAGE # 4: INATTENTIVENESS IN FOLLOWING THE WORD OF GOD.**

Biblical Passages: 1 Samuel 15

### **I. Introducing the Subject**

The far context of this chapter is Exodus 17 where the Amalekites took advantage of the children of Israel in their march from Egypt to Canaan and not only fought against them but conducted something of a guerilla warfare on the fringes of the camp. God promised them an utter destruction in time to come. Saul is told to take an army and bring a battle against this people that would destroy the nation. It was an act