

When “The Light” Goes Out

The Dimmer Switch Principle

Proverbs 4:18/ Romans 1:18-32

Saul’s Final Failure

1 Samuel 28:3-25/ Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 20:27/ Deuteronomy 18:9-13

How “The Light” Grows Dim

Five Dimmer Switch Principles

1. If we won’t **LISTEN** to God, He won’t **LISTEN** to us.
1 Samuel 28:6/ Proverbs 28:9/ Proverbs 1:23-31

2. When we obey the **OBVIOUS**, God takes care of the **OBSCURE**.
Proverbs 16:9

3. Great **STARTS** don’t guarantee happy **ENDINGS**.
Great **FAILURES** don’t doom us to tragic **ENDINGS**.
Ezekiel 18:21-24/ 1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-16; 10:6-7; 11:12-13 & 14:47-48/
1 Samuel 13:6-14 & 1 Samuel 15

4. When we mess up, we have two choices:
Proverbs 28:13
 - (a) **BLAME** others and make **EXCUSES**.
 - (b) Take **RESPONSIBILITY** and make **CHANGES**.

5. It’s never too **LATE**, until it’s too **LATE**.
Proverbs 1:23/ Isaiah 55:6-7/ 1 Samuel 28:6/ Hebrews 6:4-10

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1. If we won’t _____ to God, He won’t _____ to us.

1 Samuel 28:6/ Proverbs 28:9/ Proverbs 1:23-31

2. When we obey the _____, God takes care of the _____.

Proverbs 16:9

3. Great _____ don’t guarantee happy _____.

Great _____ don’t doom us to tragic _____.

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1 Samuel 13:6-14 & 1 Samuel 15

4. When we mess up, we have two choices:

Proverbs 28:13

(a) _____ others and make _____.

(b) Take _____ and make _____.

5. It’s never too _____, until it’s too _____.

Proverbs 1:23/ Isaiah 55:6-7/ 1 Samuel 28:6/ Hebrews 6:4-10

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 10, 2022

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Larry talked this weekend about how great failures don't guarantee a tragic ending. Can you think of someone who failed but God redeemed the end of their story? What principles from this weekend's message do you see evident in their story?

2. This weekend, we heard that if we won't listen to God, He won't listen to us. Listening is also very important in our relationships with others. Can you think of a time you didn't feel listened to? How did it impact your relationship with the person/people who didn't listen to you at the time and long-term?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. An important part of listening to God and obeying the obvious is knowing what He has said in His Word. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, and in it, God's Word is referred to over 150 times. As you read the following verses, underline anything that describes the psalmist's attitude and appetite toward God's Word.

Psalm 119:9-16, 20, 24, 47, 72, 97, 103, 105

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

¹² Praise be to you, LORD;

teach me your decrees.

¹³ With my lips I recount

all the laws that come from your mouth.

¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes

as one rejoices in great riches.

¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts

and consider your ways.

¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;

I will not neglect your word.

²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing

for your laws at all times.

²⁴ Your statutes are my delight;

they are my counselors.

⁴⁷ for I delight in your commands

because I love them.

⁷² The law from your mouth is more precious to me

than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,

a light on my path.

How might the psalmist's attitude toward Scripture keep the light from growing dim in someone's life as Larry described this weekend?

How do you relate to the psalmist's desire for God's Word? Does it challenge, confuse, intimidate and/or inspire you in any way? Explain.

If you were to write a short prayer or psalm of your own about your relationship with God's Word, what would it say? Has what you would write changed over time?

When you think about the ways you best or most frequently engage with God's Word (reading, listening, reading Bible commentaries/studies, hearing it taught by others, meditating, memorizing, etc.), have you seen these help cultivate a desire for and delight in God? If so, explain.

2. This weekend, we heard that when we mess up, we can either blame others and make excuses like Saul or take responsibility and make changes like David, who consistently models repentance after his mistakes. Repentance is more than mere regret or a broken spirit (like David's in Psalm 51), however, those play an important role as well. As you read 2 Corinthians 7:8-11, what do you notice about the relationship between conviction, remorse and repentance?

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

What are some benefits of repentance as laid out by these verses and the message we heard this weekend?

How would you describe in your own words what it means to repent or “take responsibility and make changes”?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any steps you can take to better learn and engage with God's Word and hear His voice well through Scripture?
2. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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