

PACIFIC RIM BIBLE MINISTRIES POLICY

Thank you for entering our site. The notes and any other material that may be on it are supplied to you in grace; there is no charge for them. You may download the notes from the site to your own computer; you may make copies of them for your personal use, and you may distribute them to other people, as long as it is done without charge and the entire study is kept intact. They are not for sale at any price. And, as long as you do so with the web site address on them: www.pacificrimbible.org. This is also a notice of intent to copyright.

GRACE GIVING POLICY

There is no charge for the Pacific Rim Bible Ministries on line studies, or for any other doctrinal material that Pastor Phillips teaches. Grace is not for sale at any price! Bible Doctrine, whether in its taped, printed, or on line form will be supplied to the Believer-Priest who is positive to the Word of God as long as the Lord supplies. Believers are free to give in grace toward the Tapes and Publications ministry of Pastor Phillips, as the Lord leads them, and may send their grace gifts to:

BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH
1725 EAST STREET
REDDING, CA 96001
USA

SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

July 2007

“Striking The Sails”

Forward Momentum – Continued

“*And if he shrinks back,*” Hebrews 10:37

What the *navigator* does now is shoot the sun, if by day, or the stars, if by night to triangulate their position to determine where their location is. Once this is done all they have to do is to plot a new course to get back on their original heading to their destination. For the Christian to determine their position in the angelic conflict **the three points that they have to triangulate are grace, faith and truth**. And, as the navigator always looked up the the sun in heavens, or the moon in the heavens, **so do believers always have to look to heaven to ascertain where they are in the plan of God!**

Another problem that sailors **encountered at sea were the *doldrums***. The doldrums were a belt of calms and light baffling winds north of the equator between the northern and southern trade winds in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, (ten degrees north and ten degrees south of the Equator). Early sailors named this belt of calm **the *doldrums*** because of the inactivity and stagnation they found themselves in after days of no wind. To find oneself becalmed in this region in a hot and muggy climate could mean death in an era when wind was the only major motive force. One usually hit these areas after sailing off course from the major shipping lanes and their breezes.

For the Christian the ***doldrums*** is a figure of speech referring to the believer getting off course in the Christian life and away from the filling of the Holy Spirit, (for one reason or another), and falling into depression, feeling down, being discouraged, boredom, lack of motivation, lack of purpose, lack of direction, feeling trapped with no sense of purpose or direction. Sometimes the storm, or a battle, can leave you ending up in the doldrums.

Now for the ancient sailor, whose only propulsion was the wind, ending up in the doldrums was a very serious matter! If they didn't get out of it they could die out at sea! Now they could hook up a long boat to the bow of the ship and try to row the ship out of the doldrums, sort of like doing it by your own works, or one could pray to God for the wind to come up once again. This is done by approaching the Father to have him use you, your vessel, once again in active battle against the devil in the angelic conflict.

When the request is granted **the wind of the Holy Spirit starts to blow again in your life to direct, motivate and empower the believer to spiritual activity once again in the Christian life**. You have the sails of faith up awaiting the empowering of the Holy Spirit and then the wind hits the sails and the ship, thankfully, starts moving again. They may be moving in the wrong direction, but that's OK because they intend to move in the right direction; all they needed was headway, so they can have steerage, so they can come about and start heading in the right direction, which is God's new objective for them.

Sometimes the *crew has morale problems* and this is where the believer has lost his faith, got under the control of the flesh and is totally discouraged. He has to handle this by renewing himself spiritually by going over the promises and doctrines of God's Word by faith, recovering the filling of the Holy Spirit through 1 John 1:9, and reviewing what his purpose in life is, which gets into the area of having a personal sense of destiny. The believer always needs to be oriented to the fact that he belongs to Jesus Christ, that he is sailing the high seas according to the will of God, and that he has been put here on the earth for a purpose and that's to do God's will.

The Christian sailor, as he sails on the King's ship in the angelic conflict and is flying the colors of *Yahweh* and his Son, Jesus Christ, and goes through uncharted and different waters on to his next objective through enemy territory, can be sure that the warships of Satan will engage him. It's like two ships at sea representing two different kingdoms. They are at war with each other because their respective kingdoms are at war with each other. But never fear. The victory is ours!

But this matter of *shrinking back, hupostello*, did not happen to the Lord. It does with many believers today, but not the Lord. Remember, *to shrink back* meant to withdraw from the battle, or to surrender, neither of which the Lord did. But a lot of believers have withdrawn from the battle today to go back into the world system. Believers *shrink back* when they get their eyes off the Lord, turn away from Bible Doctrine and the spiritual life, stop living by faith and can't see their objective in life. All they begin to see is suffering and conflict with no purpose; they lose heart and withdraw from the battle. **One thing that will help them is if they can see that God's objectives and blessings for us lie just over the horizon.**

It goes back to the Father's will for our lives and his plan to bring it about. It is a plan to bless us and in this plan he has developed a strategy whereby he can accomplish his eternal purpose. An eternal purpose, by the way, that is not just limited to this life but for all eternity! We can call this plan the **grace** objective of God, which becomes to us a **faith** objective that we are to be advancing toward each day in our lives.

But there is another being in heaven, Lucifer, the devil, that is seeking to accomplish **his purpose!** And a purpose, by the way, that is not just limited to this life, but all eternity as well. And his plan is diametrically opposed to God's plan. And as such he is totally committed with every resource that he has to thwart, hinder, or stop God's plan or objective from being fulfilled. Hence the angelic conflict, this spiritual warfare that is going on in heaven and on earth. **Thankfully Christ has already won this war by his death, burial and resurrection from the dead.**

And entering onto the human scene is Jesus Christ. He came into the world to accomplish the Father's purpose, and to do so, **he had to faithfully accomplish every single objective in the Father's plan.** And at this same time Satan waged war against him to stop him. But we see that **Christ did not, hupostello, shrink back. He did not surrender to Satan**, although Satan tried to get him to do that in Mt.4 and Lk.4 by offering him the kingdoms of the world, **nor did he withdraw from the battle!** This was manifested in the garden when he pressed on to do the Father's will.

3. “*My soul shall have no pleasure in him.*” - ουκ ευδοκει η ψυχη μου εν αυτω

Now many Christians withdraw from the battle of the angelic conflict and then go out to get involved in the world system belonging to Satan, or live their lives by their many lusts of the flesh, (around nineteen of them), or go out away from the Bible Doctrine to get involved in various systems of religiosity so they can “save face” among other believers, and some even surrender to Satan and are taken captive to do his will. **But Christ didn't! He was victorious over the devil!**

Eudokeo meant to be well pleased with someone, to regard them favorably, to find favor with them, to approve of them. But what pleases the mass of humanity is what is pleasing to their flesh. But on the other hand, **what is pleasing to God is that which pleases his integrity.** God's integrity is the criteria here and that which is done cannot offend any any aspect of it. Every aspect of God's integrity must be satisfied to please him.

In understanding this concept we must see it in the context of God's nature, that is, his justice, righteousness, grace, mercy, will, etc., so that **whatever is pleasing to God cannot offend any aspect of his divine nature, every aspect must be satisfied.**

For example so that his righteousness may not be offended, justice must be done. If his justice has been satisfied and he wants to now deal with man on the basis of grace, then it must be by faith for faith works with grace. If God's justice condemns and rejects all of man's human good works, then it all has to be by grace.

So he, the Father, says, “*But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.*” But Christ didn't shrink back; he didn't give up; he didn't withdraw from the battle; he didn't accept Satan's offer, but pushed on through and accomplished the Father's final objective for him on earth – **the cross!** And the Father was very pleased with him. He tells us all this when he spoke to Christ's disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, saying, “*While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*” Matthew 17:1-5

And this was even before the cross. This tells us that Christ had lived the life of faith, as well as the life of righteousness before the Law, long before the cross and the Father was well pleased with him. Which is to say that the life that Christ lived in his humanity was a life that totally satisfied the righteousness of God. And God demonstrated that he was well pleased with his Son's life, and his death on the cross for our sins, by raising him from the dead and exalting him to his right hand in heaven! “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*” Philippians 2:9

This all ties in with the will of the Father, his eternal purpose, his perfect plan, and the objectives the Father wanted to accomplish. The **first** person of the trinity, God the Father, is the one who plans all things; the **second** person of the trinity, God the Son, is the one who executes the plan of the Father; and the **third** person of the trinity, God the Holy Spirit, is the one who reveals the will of the Father.

Christ pleased his Father by doing everything he wanted him to do; he did not shrink back from it; he did not withdraw from the angelic conflict; Christ accomplished everything according to the Father's will and plan and thus the Father was well pleased with him. Jesus Christ totally pleased his Father while here on earth. The Father was pleased with Christ's **righteousness**; he was pleased with his **faith and trust in Him**; he was pleased with his **choices**; and he was pleased with his **actions**. And he affirmed all this by his statement from heaven, when he said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."* Matthew 17:5b

On earth men occupy themselves with the pursuit of pleasure, money, success, security, political power, fame and many other things. Oftentimes they will sell themselves out to Satan, (although they may not be aware of it), so that they can get these things. And Satan will actually give these things to people, if they will give him their worship. The word for *worship* actually refers to being in obeisance to him. Satan even offered these things to the Lord; the top thing being **the ruler of the world!** *"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."* Luke 4:5-7

But Christ totally and promptly turned down Lucifer's offer, because to him the most important thing in his life was to do the Father's will on earth. Besides the Father had already promised him an everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace. *"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."* Jn 4:34 *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."* John 5:30 **"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."** John 6:38

So the Son pleased the Father in all respects, in his own person having no sin nature, in his righteous living according to the Law, in living by faith every moment of his existence on earth and in him doing everything that the Father wanted him to do in perfect obedience to the Father. So because he did the will of the Father, he was well pleasing to the Father, a fact attested by God himself when he spoke from heaven.

Believers are familiar with the fact that Christ was totally righteous in his person and in his walk before the Father. But what many are not aware of is that he too lived by faith while he was here on earth. He trusted the Father; he claimed the promises; he believed the doctrines all the way to and through the cross! *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Hebrews 12:1 And Christ displayed perfect humility, because he humbled himself and became obedient to God, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him to the highest place in heaven, to his own right hand. *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"* Php 2:8

E. Non retreators. Hebrews 10:39

1. “*But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;*” - ημεις δε ουκ εσμεν υποστολης εις απωλειαν

“*But we are not of shrinking back unto destruction.*” The present active indicative of *eimi*, the verb of status quo, tells us what their present state of existence was; they were not the *hupostole*, those who retreated from the battle, those who ran away from the angelic conflict, those who gave up.

The descriptive genitive of *hupostole* describes the crowd of believers who did shrink back. Again the author has two groups in mind. **The one group** stayed on with Bible Doctrine in the local church, faith living and following God's plan for their lives. And the **other group** went back into the world system, which meant for the Jews, who became Christians, that were living in Jerusalem, their going back into the temple system. But he said, **we are not of that crowd**, or, we don't belong to that crowd.

As we have seen, *hupostole*, to shrink back, was used in a military application and it meant to leave the scene of a battle, to withdraw, to retreat, to give up and not fight any more. Which was not the case with the Apostle Paul, who said, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*” 2 Timothy 4:7

In a naval application it meant to be in the heat of the battle and break away not to fight any more. It also meant to be in the heat of the battle and surrender and end up becoming a prisoner of war. And even worse, it meant to give up, stop fighting, surrender and then go over to the enemy's side. Now in practical applications what it means to us is this:

1)**To stop fighting in the battle** is to stop living by faith and applying to one's life, to stop taking in Bible Doctrine, to stop wearing the armor and to stop living in the filling of the Holy Spirit.

2)**To leave the scene of the battle** is to stop taking in Bible Doctrine and go back into the world system to live your life as Demas did. It would also entail leaving the Word to go back into organized religion of the day. The dog and pony show type of churches today and the temple back then.

3)**To surrender** means to be taken captive as a prisoner of war where the believer now comes under the influence and torment of demons and end up doing Satan's will in their lives.

4)**To go over to the enemy's side** meant that the soldier had not only stopped fighting and took off to go home, or some other place, but he had now gone over to the enemy's side and joined ranks with him. This refers to the believer who actively, overtly and willingly in the flesh is following the agenda of Satan and not the will of God.

5)**Basically the *hupostole* crowd**, (*retreators*), had left the teaching of Bible Doctrine in their local church under their right Pastor-Teacher to go back into their communities, the temple, their old life, legalism, programism, etc..

Demas abandoned Paul; he left doctrine and went back into the world system. Which meant that he now went back to pursue a normal life, job, house, family, money, security, community involvement, material success, etc.. He was now occupied with, focused upon, and going after the things found in the world, not the things of Christ!

Other believers left the Word and went back into their communities to get involved in community life all over again, only now without the emphasis on Bible Doctrine; doctrine is no longer a priority with them. Which also entailed, for the ones being referred to here, them going back into the legalism of the temple system. And still others stayed around in the churches still posing as Christians, (only God knows for sure), but they actually functioned as a *fifth column* behind the lines hurting the ministry, or the ministers, as Alexander the coppersmith did causing the Apostle Paul great harm.

Church history is full of the infamy of believers in Christ who retreated from the battle of the angelic conflict, who stopped fighting the great battle for the faith and truth, who went away from sound doctrine to go back into the world system, (which was established by the devil himself), whether to pursue their own lusts, or into legalism, or to follow their emotions, or into the goofiness of quasi-christian organizations, and even of those who defected over to the enemy's side to do the bidding of the devil and end up trying to hurt doctrinal ministries. The judgment will bring all this to light.

But the author says, "We are not of that crowd". Those who have remained faithful to the Word will receive reward, commendation and award on that day of Christ's judgment. But those who abandoned the Word and went back to the world to follow their own purposes will receive their recompense as well, loss of eternal blessings. The statement, "*And are destroyed*", is *apoleian*, literally "*unto destruction*". And with the use of the accusative case of *apoleian* we would translate it as, "*resulting in destruction*". "*We are not of those who shrink back resulting in destruction.*"

The preposition *eis* carries with it four ideas. One, departing from something. Two, a goal or end in sight, whether known or unknown. Three, movement in that direction. Four, an actual arrival at that thing. They left their house to go to, *eis*, church. There is **one**, their actual departure from the house. **Two**, a goal in sight, the church. **Three**, movement in that direction as they drive. **Four**, they arrive at the church.

That's why we say that *eis* results in something. Their leaving the Word of God and faith living results in the **unknown goal** of the destruction of their souls, which can take place over a long period of time. Just like it takes a period of time to go from point A to point B, **so it takes a period of time also to go from a healthy soul to a destroyed soul!** As soon as the believer in Christ turns from the filling of the Holy Spirit, stops living by faith in the new nature and metabolizing Bible Doctrine by faith, then the result down the road will be the destruction of the well being of their soul.

The word for destruction, *apoleian*, speaks of the ruin of the soul, the loss of its well being, not its death or extinction. It doesn't mean that the soul will be destroyed in *Gehenna*, but that its well being, its cohesive stability will be gone. And why not! The spiritual life dynamic that held it together is missing!

What will now set in on the believers souls are mental disorders, emotional disorders, multiple personality disorders, psychosis, neurosis and the like will now be the daily dynamic of the believer's soul. In other words, mental illness of one form or another will be the soul's experience instead of peace and cohesive stability.

It's the teaching of the Word of God, that is metabolized by faith under the filling of the Holy Spirit, that gives our souls strength and stability. It is the *spiritual glue*, (substance), that holds our souls together. Take it away and we literally start to come apart. Just as the Word of God holds the universe together, so does it hold the believer's soul together. Except one is volitional and the other isn't. "*And he is before all things, and by him all things **consist**.*" Colossians 1:17

Often believers will say, "I feel like I'm coming apart!" They use it as a figure of speech, but that's what is actually happening with their souls. With the spiritual life dynamic missing, the soul loses its spiritual cohesiveness, then fragmentation and polarization begin to occur as the believer begins to lose their minds, which actually refers to the loss of well being, *apoleian*.

There are two things that can directly contribute to the soul's loss of well being. The one is an internal fragmentation where the soul comes apart by itself without any external concept involved. And the other comes from the external impact of **demon influence on the soul**, minus the strengthening aspect of the spiritual life dynamic in the soul.

Two ships at sea in combat with each other. In the first ship we have a crew of men, who through weariness of battle, arrogance, stupidity, the tossing of the stormy sea, the constant barrage of the enemy ship, disorientation, loss of purpose, panic under pressure, failure to implement strategy and tactics under extreme pressure, breakdown of military discipline and an incomplete knowledge of the enemy's skill and tactics strike the colors, lower the sails and give up!

Their big mistake now, along with all the other mistakes, is a lack of understanding of their enemy's character, power and intentions. They think that the enemy is bound by the rules of *fair play*. They think that the enemy will treat them, as they would treat the enemy! They are completely naive about all this.

What the enemy plans on doing with them is inflicting on them the greatest amount of physical and mental torment that they can and still keep them alive! Or, in some cases, to turn them around so they will do the will of the enemy now and not their own country. This speaks of the believer who has turned away from the Word and is now under the direct influence and/or control of demons, who either terrorize them, as they did with Saul, and/or using them to do Satan's will.

Make no mistake about it, if the believer rejects the Word of God and thereby surrenders his soul over to the devil, he or she will come under the influence of demons and will end up being tormented by them until the day they die!

2. “*But of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*” - αλλα πιστεως εις περιποιησιν ψυχης

This verse has two parallel lines of thought that stand in opposition to each other.

“*Draw back unto perdition*” - υποστολης εις απωλειαν

“*Believe to the saving of the soul.*” - πιστεως εις περιποιησιν ψυχης

Because they stand against each other in parallelism, we know that they are talking about the same subject only giving us insight into two separate, different courses of action and consequences for the soul.

Both *shrinking back* and *faith* are in the genitive singular so we know that we are talking about two groups of believers, which has been the topic here for awhile. The group of believers that had left the teaching of the Word in the local church to go back into the temple system, and the group of believers that had stayed behind to continue on in the Word and God's grace.

This is born out by the descriptive use of the genitive, which is used here to describe a certain group of people. The **one group** was the *shrinker backs*, the *retreators*, the apostates, those who gave up, surrendered, etc.. The **other group** that is described here are those who stayed with Bible Doctrine and faith, the grace crowd.

The contrast of the consequences of the **one group** in turning away from the Word being taught in a doctrinal local church, grace and faith resulted in the loss of the well being of their souls, is being compared to the **other group** of believers who stayed with grace, faith and Bible Doctrine resulted in the preservation of their souls! This is an important point. Believers only have two choices – destruction of the soul or preservation.

The word for *saved* is *peripoiesis*, which actually means to preserve, to keep intact, to keep safe, to keep from being harmed or destroyed. If you have something of value you protect it so it won't be marred, spoiled, damaged, or destroyed and that's the idea here.

Faith and the Word, under the filling of the Holy Spirit are the only things that preserves the Christian's soul! Emotionalism, entertainmentism, legalism, programism, ritualism, the big extravaganza and so many of the other things that we find going on in churches today are counter productive to the health and well being of believer's souls.

The most precious thing that any person has, whether a believer or an unbeliever, is their soul. That's why the Lord says, “*What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul!*” Tragically for the unbeliever, because he has rejected Christ as his Savior, will lose his soul forever in the lake of fire.

But for the believer in Christ, even though his soul will not go to the lake of fire, he or she can experience the destruction of the well being of his soul in this life, by his rejection of Bible Doctrine, living by faith in the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit and rejecting God's will and plan for his life. And God is faithful because he has preserved our free will in this matter. But consider the consequences.

It is the metabolized Word of God in one's soul, through faith and the filling of the Holy Spirit, that **provides the spiritual cohesiveness that holds the soul together**. It holds it together; it strengthens it and makes it able to withstand the ravages of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Without that spiritual strength and cohesive stability that the spiritual dynamic supplies, the soul will come apart into various mental disorders – any and all of them. When the soul loses its well being it will eventually go into various mental illnesses, even into the nightmare of insanity!

But it doesn't have to be that way! The believer, on the other hand, can press forward in God's plan, God's will, God's Word, living by faith in the new nature, utilizing all of God's provisions to live in the spiritual dynamic of the true Christian life. It will be a life of blessing and one of the first areas of blessing will be in the soul!

And that's what this matter of, *“those who believe and are saved”*, is all about. This speaks of the blessing awaiting those believers who actively pursue the grace life God has waiting for them. This is in contrast to those who reject it, whose souls will be cursed accordingly. Blessing or cursing, which will it be?

The Apostle John wrote, Brethren, *“I pray that you may prosper and be in good health, even as your soul is prospering.”* 3 John 2 It begins with the **prosperity of the soul**, good mental health, then it goes to the **prosperity of the body**, good physical health, and then it goes to the **prosperity of one's life**: finances, friends, social life, job, home, career, etc.. But it all begins with BD in the soul and the spiritual life dynamic.

The good mental health that comes from metabolized doctrine in the soul not only speaks of overcoming and being free of mental illnesses, but also demon influence in one's life. Satan's army of demons may attack the body, those around you and even what you have, but he won't be able to destroy the mind or its stability. Bible Doctrine metabolized in our souls by faith will strengthen and stabilize the mind from all Satan's attacks.

However, if the believer in Christ rejects the spiritual dynamic of faith in the Word, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, that God provides to all believers in grace, then he is opening himself up to the ravages of Satan's attacks. King Saul was an example of such a believer. His soul was in prosperity at one time; he had been prospered by God and promoted by God to be the king over Israel. All blessings from Bible Doctrine.

But when Saul rejected the Word of the Lord, then the Lord rejected him as king. *“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”* 1 Samuel 15:23 We now see the divine favor of God being removed from him, but it didn't stop there, it affected his soul as well. *“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”* 1 Samuel 16:14 Demonic influence and demonic torment was not just limited to believers in the Old Testament. It can happen to New testament believers as well if they reject the Word!

Saul's peace and mental stability left him at this point and he began to go down into increasingly erratic and violent behavior, not to mention into total depression. A psychology student might be interested in a closer study on his behavior to give it a name, **but it's really not important on the name of the mental illness, but why one is mentally ill, and more important how you got that way and how to get out of it!**

What is important to us is the fact that **Saul became mentally ill, as the result of coming under demon influence, which came about as the result of rejecting the Doctrines of the Word of God!** Suffice it to say, Saul was a bad example that God brings out for the rest of his people on earth not to follow.

But for those believers who stay with the Word of God, who learn it, believe it, live by it in their new natures under the filling of the Holy Spirit, God has for them a life of blessing, spiritual and otherwise. Peace of mind, freedom from guilt, freedom from fear and worry, no mental illnesses, only a healthy and stabilized soul. This is what is meant by the preserving of the soul.

Pastor Mike