

I'd like to look with you at the 16th ch. of 1 Samuel.
(Reading 1 Sam. 16:1-7)

We won't take time to read the rest of the ch. I think most of you know what happened. He had all the sons of Jesse come before him and the Lord did not tell him that any one of them was the one whom he wanted him to anoint as king. Then the youngest one whom they had to send for because he was out with the sheep, when he came, the Lord said, Rise and anoint him. He is the one. So he anointed David.

In this situation Saul had just had a great disappointment. He mean Samuel had anointed Saul to be king, and he had looked forward to doing great things. And Saul had done great things. Samuel was grateful for the things Saul had done in the early part of his kingship, but then Saul had turned away to follow his own personal feelings and desires. He let his own thoughts of glory take over in his life. The result was as we read in 1 Sam. 12, Samuel had to rebuke Saul and tell him that God had displeasure with him and with the people of Israel.

Yet we read in that ch., v.23, that Samuel after rebuking Saul and rebuking the people said, As for me, far be it for me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. I will teach you the right way. Samuel saw that Saul had turned aside. Samuel rebuked him strongly. Samuel did all he could to undo the evil things that Saul did. Yet Samuel said he would continue to pray for him.

Ch. 16 began with the Lord saying to Samuel, How long will you mourn for Saul since I have rejected him as king over Israel? At the end of the previous ch. it says that until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him." I believe this has an important lesson for us. In life, we have occasions of great disappointment. We have times when we have found when those whom we thought would be great servants of the Lord and accomplish much for him have turned aside. When we do I think we should follow Samuel's example. We rebuke them. We do what we can to offset their evil. But we do not do it with any spirit of exaltation. We do not do it with a spirit of personal antagonism, but we grieve for them.

It grieves the heart of God when we fail and do not carry on what he wants us to do. He wants us to show forth his attitude in all these matters.

So I think that Samuel, that wonderful servant of the Lord, is a great example to us in many ways. But I would like to bring out some other matters. One of them illustrates a truth that Paul pointed out in 1 Cor. 13, where he says "we know in part and we prophesy in part." Paul was perhaps as knowledgeable in things of