

Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

1 Samuel 15:22-23

“But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to Him is much better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you from being king.” 1 Samuel 15:22-23

Men focus on outward sinfulness and actions. Judgments are made based upon one’s actions, either good or bad. Yet the LORD sees a deeper and more serious picture. He sees the rebellion that drives sin – those inner attitudes that flaunt, dismiss and even excuse sinful actions.

Man’s heart is set on rebellion and he is indeed born with a heart of independence from His Creator until he is born again. Now his heart is set upon obedience and he has a new willingness to genuinely obey. Obedience is a hallmark of the Christian; obedience both to the word of God and to the voice of the Spirit.

The stubborn rebellious self will always desire or demand its own way – even before God! But the Lord is looking for a humble heart that yields to His voice. “But now *God* commands all men everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30)