

Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

1 Samuel 15:30

“Then he said, “I have sinned” yet honour me now, I pray, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD God.” 1 Samuel 15:30

Saul obviously doesn't understand! His repentance is merely surface in nature; he has never allowed himself a genuine brokenness before God. His only concern, even in repentance, is what the people see and hear – how they perceive him and his reputation. He cares little for the things of God. He seeks man's approval rather than the Lord's acceptance!

Beware of this type of ‘having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it.’ (2 Timothy 3:5). Ostentatious religious show will always end in spiritual death, for there is no life in mere form. Concrete forms have no strength in themselves; it is the hardening concrete on the inside that is the genuine strength and substance. Substance is alone found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Genuine repentance of heart forgets that men may be present as it only sees itself as having failed before God. The repentant heart is desperate to make right and do right, to restore its relationship with the Master. The repentant heart cares nothing for those who may view its actions but only longs that they will be made right before their God. “And the Pharisee stood (*so others might see him*) and prayed thus *with himself*... but the tax collector; standing far off, would not lift up his eyes, but said, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:9-14)