

discipleship is ever the same. It is obedience to Christ in whatever daily vocation we may follow or find. Wherever the Christian may find himself this is so.

The only man who has the right to say he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ. The price is that kind of price we must pay. I want to draw our story from Samson today who prostituted, desecrated a life that was once consecrated.

A broken vow as Orr says is "a sin of omission; it is also the commission of an affront to God. It must be confessed as sin before fellowship is completely restored." A man becomes an opponent, an enemy, of Christ. It is like in

chess--a man reaches a checkmate--a time when neither can move. Before seeking the blessings of God a man must change. It is not enough that the man meant no offense; it is not enough that no deceit was planned in advance. The sin against God is a serious transgression. Proverbs 13:15 "The way of the transgressor is hard." I do not think that this just simply applies to the sinner but to the true child of God. What could be more illustrative than the Bible story of Samson. His whole life is a terrible lesson of all who

sin against spiritual privilege and despise the gifts of God. They compromise their consecration to God. This is one of the greatest tragedies.

During the age of the Judges God raised up men as His instruments to lead and guide His people. Following a sad

time in the land, God promised that they would win many victories. There was the enemy--the Philistines--and there was no leader in Israel. Moses was dead; Joshua had lead them into the land, but he was dead. Without a strong leader to unite the people and direct their ways, the nation was

weak. The last sentence in the Book of Judges describes it, "There was no king in Israel: Every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25)"

Whenever men do that which is right in their own eyes, tragedy follows. It can happen in the church when the word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit are neglected, and when the individuals assert themselves. God will not and cannot bless such conditions.

Now, God raised up these churches to direct the affairs of the people that confronted the nation, and God used human individuals. If we have eyes to see it, the course of the nation will be seen to be the course of individual lives as well, as the people united.

Now, the cycle begins with a good state of spiritual health. Then there was material prosperity. God was honored, His will obeyed. But with these blessings came complacency