

The Rise and Fall of Saul (part 2)

1 Samuel 12

*In spite of our PAST sin,
we can have a bright FUTURE!*

1. Samuel gives his farewell speech (1-25)

- a.** Samuel confirms his credibility before giving his testimony (1-5)
- b.** Samuel acts as a defense attorney for the Lord's goodness to Israel (6-11)
- c.** Samuel acts as a prosecuting attorney against Israel's disobedience (9-13)
- d.** Israel's future hangs in the balance (14-18)
- e.** Past failure should not prevent prayer and renewal (19-25)

For Further Study and Reflection:

- *Mere Christianity* by CS Lewis
- *Worship* by AW Tozer

Small Group Questions:

1. The subject title in your Bible labels Chapter 12 "The Farewell Speech of Samuel". How is this passage more like a trial?
2. In what ways does Samuel act like a defense attorney, prosecutor, witness, and judge?
3. Of what is Israel guilty?
4. Is our God a God who punishes, or a God who forgives? Explain.
5. What led to Israel's drift from God to idols? What warning should we take from them?
6. What kinds of idols beckon you for allegiance? How do you resist?
7. What is impressive about Samuel in this chapter? What is beautiful about God in this chapter? How does Israel's "covenantal trial" (in Ch. 12) shed light on the New Covenant which is in Christ's blood?