

Consecration vs Corruption: A Study in Contrasts 1 Samuel: 2:11-26

INTRODUCTION

An important feature of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel is the use of contrasts to make a point. We saw this feature at the beginning of 1 Samuel, and we will continue to see it until the end of 2 Samuel. **First**, there was the contrast between humble, believing Hannah and the arrogant hostility of Peninnah, her rival co-wife. At the end of chapter 1 Hannah brings her young son, Samuel, to serve in God's house, initiating a contrast between Samuel and the wicked sons of Eli. **This section (verses we read)** alternates between the sinful practices of Eli's wicked sons and the purity and righteousness of Samuel and his family. Here's a truth to **ponder: The contrast between Samuel and Eli's sons does more than warn us against the way of the wicked. It also reminds us that God is at work behind the scenes, so that even amid wickedness and unbelief there is always hope for grace. What we have before us is consecration vs corruption...a study in contrast.**

I. _____ vs _____ service (2:11-17)

A. _____ (2:11)

B. Eli's _____ (2:12-17)

1. Their _____ condition (2:12)

Eli's sons may have failed to know the Lord, but the Lord would not fail to know them or their deeds.

2. Their _____ actions (2:13-17)

II. _____ vs _____ (2:18-24)

A. _____ (2:18-21)

B. Eli's _____ (2:22-24)

** Eli's sons demonstrate the progressive nature of sin.

** The little sins you let slide now will only grow into bigger sins.

III. _____ vs _____ (2:25-26)

A. Eli's _____ experienced the Lord's _____
(2:25)

B. _____ experienced the Lord's _____
(2:26)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning?

- **God leaves no sin _____**

***** Consider your active sins against God's honor.**

***** Consider your passive sins against God's honor.**

Your actions (active or passive) will either bring honor to the Lord, or shame to His name and defilement to your life.

- **God quietly _____ those who _____ Him**

Don't be discouraged by the quietness of your faithful Christian life. The time may just come when you see what part you have played in being a blessing to others.

- **God _____ the _____ and
_____ the _____**

All of us must do business with God. Whether we come to God as a Samuel, or we have God come to us as a Hophni and Phinehas. The choice is ours. The only thing there is no choice about is the fact that we all must deal with God.