

## **Five Great Statements**

No. 194

### **Introduction.**

I. One of the great prophets of the Old Testament was Samuel. He was the one who appointed Saul the king of Israel in about 1050 B.C.. As a child He was dedicated to God by his mother and he became a faithful and courageous prophet. He was a man who loved God and taught others to do the same.

II. Listen carefully to these great words of Samuel recorded in 1 Samuel 12. (1 Sam. 12:16-25).

**16 "Even now, take your stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes.**

**17 "Is it not the wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord, that He may send thunder and rain. Then you will know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord by asking for yourselves a king." 18 So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.19 Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil by asking for ourselves a king." 20 And Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. 21 "And you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile. 23 "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. 24 "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. 25 "But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away."**

III. There are many great lessons in this reading, but I particularly call your attention to the “Five Great Statement” Samuel made in verses 23 and 24 of this reading.

A. Let’s prayerfully examine each one of these great statements.

B. Each statement is a timeless and powerful message to every generation.

I. **Not Cease To Pray For Them** - Samuel said . (1 Sam. 12:23).

A. **What a beautiful thought!**

1. Samuel was a man of prayer. Samuel was busy praying for Israel. He loved his people. He was deeply concerned because of their wickedness.
2. He constantly prayed Israel would repent, and turn to God.
3. He wanted them to please God, and be saved.

B. **Prayer is a vital part of our lives.** It is more essential than even food and drink.

1. We need to pray for **our needs**. (Matt. 6:9-11; Jas. 1:5; 4:2).
2. We need to **pray for others**.
  - a. Prayer for others should be a **major part of our prayer lives**. ( 1 Tim. 2:1-3).
  - b. We should prayer for:
    - **Our leaders** and for the **leaders of the world**.
    - We should pray for our **spiritual leaders**.
    - For our **ministers**, for our **teachers**
    - For all our **fellow Christians**.
    - We should pray for the lost, the weak, the sick, the fallen and for “all men.”
    - We should **pray even for our enemies**. (Matt. 5:43-44).

2. **God forbid that we fail to pray for one another.**

- a. We should spend time every day praying for others.
- b. Prayer is powerful and we should tap this awesome power for ourselves and others. (Jas. 5:17).

II. **“I Will Instruct You The Good And The Right Way”** - Samuel said, “I will instruct you in the good and the right way.”

A. Samuel was committed to teaching Israel “the good and right way” -He was committed to living and teaching the words of the Almighty God of heaven.

B. The **purpose of our lives** is to follow “the good and right way.”

1. Our constant desire should be to please God.
2. Here are some biblical statements that should be on our hearts and minds.

**PSA 40:8 I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart. "**

**PSA 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**PSA 119:10 With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments.**

**PSA 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.**

**PSA 119:15 I will meditate on Thy precepts, And regard Thy ways.**

**PSA 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.**

**PSA 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.**

**PSA 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.**

**JAM 4:15 "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."**

3. Psa. 19:14; Jn. 4:34; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21.

C. It is also our **purpose to teach others** "the good and the right way."

1. We must begin at home and then reach out to as many people as we can.
2. The good and right way is the only way is the only way we can be acceptable to God. The good and right way is the only way that leads to the abundant life. It is the only way that leads to heaven.
3. We must never cease teaching God's glorious message, but should have the attitude of Paul. (Rom. 1:15, 16). Paul was ready and eager to teach others the gospel (the good and right way) and we should always do the same.

III. **"Only Fear The Lord"** - Samuel said "only fear the Lord."

A. The word "fear" has the idea of "reverence."

1. The Bible says. (Prov. 1:7; Psa. 111:10).
2. It says. (Deut. 14:23; Eccles. 12:13).

B. May each acknowledge God's existence.. May none of us be foolish enough to deny God. (Psa. 14:1).

C. May each of us also reverence God and keep His commandments. Only those who reverence God and keep His commandments will be saved.

IV. **"Serve Him In Truth With All Your Heart"** - Samuel said, "Serve Him in truth with all your heart."

A. We must learn to serve God "in truth."

1. The "truth," of course, is God's word. (Jn.17:17).
2. **Today it is essential that we serve God in truth.**
  - a. We must not serve God **on the basis of our opinions, or feelings, or preferences.** (Prov. 14:12; Jere. 10:23).
  - b. We must not serve God **on the basis of human traditions.** (Matt. 15:9).
  - c. We must **love and follow God's truth** revealed by Christ and the apostles and prophets. (Jn. 8:32).

B. We must make sure that our **service comes sincerely and wholeheartedly from the heart.** (Deut. 10:12).

**DEU 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your**

**God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,**

1. God is only pleased with heart service. (1 Sam. 16:9).
2. Jesus rebuked those who did not serve God from the heart. Lip service is not acceptable to God. (Matt. 15:8).
3. We must love God with “all” our hearts. (Matt. 22:37, 38).

V. **“For Consider What Great Things He Has Done For You”** - Samuel said, “For consider what great things He has done for you.”

A. What a statement! Why should we serve Him in truth and with all the heart?

1. The answer is because of what He has done for us.
2. Samuel was telling the Israelites to first stand back and look at what God had done for them.

B. **This is what we need to do.**

1. **We should take a good look at our blessings.** God has blessed us with food, clothing, shelter, friends, freedom, and countless others blessings. Each of our blessings have come from God. (Jas. 1:17).
2. **Here is something even more amazing.** God gave His Son to die on the cross for us. He did this when we were sinners and covered with the filth of sin.(Rom. 5:8).
3. The Bible also says.. (1 Jn. 4:19).
4. If we consider all our God’s blessings and especially the sacrifice of His Son for us if should change our lives.
  - a. It will compel us to serve God with love and gratitude.
  - b. It will compel us to totally surrender our lives to Him.

**Conclusion.**

- I. Let all of us follow these “Five Great Statements” given by Samuel.
- II. Let all of us **consider the greatness of God** and serve Him with all our being from the heart.
- III. Let all of us become a part of God’s great family.
  - A. Paul tells us how. (Gal. 3:26, 27).
  - B. Paul teaches it is through faith and baptism that we are saved and become a part of God’s family.
  - C. We invite you to become a part of God’s family this evening. Come as we stand and sing.

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