

plain fact, as well as against Samuel and against God.

Samuel's final reply, vs. 22, 23. It might justly have been a bare word of rejection; but Samuel, like God, is fair, and so he reasons even with this brazen offender. The teacher should make time for the great truth of v. 22, obedience of heart and life, not outward form, the essence of religion. Then the sentence falls; and again it is fair—the "because" is unanswerable; Saul has rejected God's command, God rejects him as king. The servant who disobeys is not fit to be trusted with service.

Vs. 26-31 should be read. Perhaps young scholars may not be able to sound the depths of the passage—merciful is it if they cannot; but it shows how bitter a thing sin is, which so breaks up a strong man, and how hard it is to win back what we have allowed sin to snatch away from us. The burden of the whole lesson is, Obey! obey! obey!!!

Some Test Questions

What does Saul claim to have done?
Who were the Amalekites?
Why were they to be destroyed?
What evidence against Saul's claim?
For what does Samuel blame Saul?
How does Saul defend himself?
What answer made by Samuel?
To what is rebellion compared?
What was the penalty of Saul's sin?

What do we learn as to:

- (1) The sin of hypocrisy?
- (2) God's wrath against sin?
- (3) The importance of obedience to God?
- (4) The real nature of idolatry?

Prove from Scripture

That the Lord rejects those who reject Him.

For Special Study

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

1. The Amalekites.
2. Excuses.
3. True worship.

The Catechism

Ques. 87. *Repentance unto life*. This question tells us four things: (1) From what repentance springs. We must know that we are sinners or we shall see nothing to repent of, and we must be sure that God is merciful or there will be no use in our repenting. (2) What goes along with repentance—sorrow for and hatred of sin. But these are not repentance. (3) What repentance is. It is turning away from sin. In repentance we stop going in the wrong direction and begin going in the right direction. And then it is something more than giving up evil, it is earnestly desiring and striving to do right. (4) To what repentance leads—to life. This means eternal life, which God gives us on condition that we believe and repent.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Introduction—Were you ever rolling a hoop and it ran off the sidewalk into the ditch? Did you ever hear of a train running off the track? Did you ever run off the track yourselves when going along a narrow path? Recall the two paths outlined by Samuel, the path of disobedience and the path of obedience. King Saul started all right on this path of obedience, but he "got off the track" and on to the other path of disobedience, forgot to obey God.

Lesson Subject—God saving His people by teaching them how to serve Him.

Lesson—Divide the lesson into three stories:

SAUL'S SIN—Here are the

