



*Finish the Race Well!*

*1 Samuel 31:1-13*

*June 10, 2012*

*The three stages in the life of a man who did not finish well:*

*I. In the first stage of Saul's life, we learn that he had a good beginning.  
(II Cor 4:18)*

*A. When you take your eyes off of God and began to desire the things of the world, you will lose your focus and you will not finish well!*

*B. A good beginning does not guarantee finishing well!*

*C. When a believer loses his focus on God, he is vulnerable to enemy attack.  
(Heb 12:2-3)*

*II. In the second stage of Saul's life, he lost his focus and he turned away from God.*

*A. When you as a believer fall into a pattern of disobedience, you are inviting God's judgment!*

*B. In the Christian life, it's not how you start that matters; it's how you finish!  
(Phil 3:13-14)*

*C. When you lose your focus on God, you will fall into disobedience and disobedience invites God's discipline.*

*D. When you lose your focus on God and His purpose for your life, and when you stop worshipping Him as your Savior, you will turn away from God and your life will be marked by disobedience.  
(Joel 2:11, 13, 25)*

*III. The third stage of Saul's life ends in tragedy.*

*A. When you turn away from God, it will not just affect your life, but also the lives around you. Sin leads to death and results in separation from God.*

*1. Sin will take you further than you want to go!*

*2. Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay!*

*3. Sin will cost you more than you want to pay!*

*B. How can we avoid making the same mistake? Keep your eyes on Jesus. Follow in his footsteps. Don't get caught up in the things of the world  
(Heb 11:13-16)*

*"The body has two eyes, but the soul must have but one."*

*William Secker*