

**Contrast: The Difference of a Life In Christ
Religiously Lost Versus Relationally Saved
1 Samuel 28**

There are three parts to the story of 1 Samuel 28 that set up our conversation about the difference between being religiously lost and relationally saved.

(1) The Setting of the Story. (28:1-6)

- A. David is stuck in his charade of pretending to be an ally of the Philistines. (28:1-2)
- B. King Saul is stuck in the reality of his rebellion against God—the Philistines are preparing to invade, and God is no longer speaking to him. (28:3-6)
 - 1. When a person dies, their soul instantly enters heaven (the eternally blessed presence of God) or hell (the horrific punishment of God). (Luke 16:22-23; 23:42-43, Philippians 1:21-24, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
 - 2. God has the power to let the dead appear and communicate with us. (Matthew 17:1-3)
 - 3. Satan and demons are real and are at work on the earth. (Mark 1:39, Luke 8:30, Ephesians 6:11-12)

(2) The Hypocrisy of the Story – While publicly banning those who communicated with the dead, King Saul secretly _____ one! (28:7-10)

(3) The Purpose of the Story – God made it clear that He was going to use the Philistines to execute His _____ on King Saul and his legacy. (28:11-25)

Challenge: The contrast between Saul and David is a prototypical example of the difference between a person who's religiously lost and one who's relationally saved. Which one are you?

- (1)** A religiously lost person sees God's rules as restrictive, while a relationally saved person sees God's rules as _____. (Psalm 1:1-2)
- (2)** A religiously lost person seeks ways to justify disobeying God's rules, while a relationally saved person strives to _____ them. (Psalm 40:8-9, John 10:27; 14:15)
- (3)** A religiously lost person obeys God's rules to try and get something out of the relationship. In contrast, a relationally saved person obeys God's rules because of what they have _____ the relationship. (Psalm 51:10-13)