

## A Mature Mindset – Part 2

### We Want to Finish Well...

**1<sup>st</sup> Mature Mindset:** We accept the authority of Christ.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mature Mindset:** We actively disengage from sin.

**“Finishing Well”** so relevant to righteous living.

Illustrate with two men with the same name! “Saul”

*He had a son, whose name was Saul, an impressive young man; and there was not among the children of Israel a better person than he. From his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.* **1 Samuel 9:2 (WEB)**

*And the Spirit of Yahweh will come mightily on you, and you shall prophesy... and shall be turned into another man.*

**1 Samuel 10:6 (WEB)**

*God gave him a new heart, and all Samuel’s signs were fulfilled that day.*

**1 Samuel 10:9 (NLT)**

*“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”*

**1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NKJV)**

***“Partial obedience to the Word of God is Whole disobedience to the God of the Word.”*** (I.M. Haldeman)

*“How the have mighty Fallen!?”*

**2 Samuel 1:27 (NKJV)**

But there is another Saul... Saul of Tarsus.

*And they cast (Stephen) out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.* **Acts 7:58 (NKJV)**

*“I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to*

*another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities* **Acts 26:9-11 (NIV)**

*As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison* **Acts 8:3 (NKJV)**

*For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I was savagely persecuting the church of God and trying to destroy it.* **Galatians 1:13 (NET)**

*Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ...* **Acts 9:1 (NKJV)**

*As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!* **Acts 9:3-5 (NLT)**

*But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”* **Acts 9:15-16 (NIV)**

Two men named Saul. Ask them... “Did you finish well?”

- Saul (OT): “...Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong.” **1 Samuel 26:21b (NIV)**

- Saul (NT): “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” **2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)**

You want to finish well? A mature mindset – acknowledges God’s will and believes God’s word.