

# **Compromise**

By Jerry Justice

## **Introduction**

As a young boy, I remember my mother reading Bible stories to me at night. One particular story made me cry. It was the story of the end of Samson's life, and I cried because it ended so tragically. You see, his life had begun with great promise and ended in such tragedy.

**Samson's End (Judges 16:20-30 NIV)**

**Samson's Promising Beginning (Judges 13:2-5 NIV)**

**Samson's story reminds me of the church.**

**Our potential (Eph. 2:10 NIV)**

**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**Our reality – there is very little difference between us and non-Christians in rates of divorce, domestic violence, depression, alcoholism, etc.**

**The Cause of the church's tragedy is the same as for Samson – compromise (knowing what God has said, but picking and choosing what we will obey and disobey.)**

**Samson had kept the Nazarite vow, but there was one thing he wanted. (Judges 14:1-3 NCV)**

**Samson went down to Timnah. There in Timnah a woman caught his eye, a Philistine girl. He came back and told his**

father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, a Philistine girl; get her for me as my wife."  
His parents said to him, "Isn't there a woman among the girls in the neighborhood of our people? Do you have to go get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?"  
But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the one I want— she's the right one."

**Compromise is an attitude of the heart.**

**Driven by two things:**

- **Because we believe God is holding out on us.**  
**i.e. – If I do it my way, I'll be happier**
- **A standard of living governed by the feeling that as long as I make it to heaven, it doesn't matter what else I do.**

## **Conclusion**

**We are faced with two choices. We can attempt to compromise between light and darkness (an impossible task), or we can take the attitude of the writer of the 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm who found delight in living God's way.**