

## EVERY MAN DID RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES

Introduction: *2 Corinthians 5:7 (an eternal principle)*

1. During the time of the judges, there was no earthly king in Israel.
2. However, God was their King!
3. The book of Judges records (among other things) the digression of Israel from a theocracy (ruled by God) to a monarchy (ruled by man).
4. Yet, their desire for an earthly king was only a symptom of a deeper problem.
5. The people of Israel had chosen to walk by sight and not by faith...

### I. Walking by Sight Led to Idolatry

- A. Because God is invisible, man has a tendency to forget Him.
- B. Israel was faithful to God when they had tangible evidence of His presence.
  1. To them, Moses was tangible evidence that God was with them.
  2. When Moses lingered on Mount Sinai, the Israelites desired some new, tangible proof of God (Exodus 20:22-23; 24:12-18; 32:1-6).
  3. Thus, they made and worshipped the golden calf.
- C. Their lack of faith led them into idolatry.
  1. True faith is evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).
  2. True faith allows one to see the invisible God (Hebrews 11:27).
- D. There are many idolaters today.
  1. They may not bow down to an image, but they walk by sight and not faith.
  2. Sadly, they are even found in the church (1 Corinthians 10:1-14).

### II. Walking by Sight Led to Ignorance

- A. Following the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of Israel.
  1. Though Joshua was chosen by God to lead Israel, he did not have the same authority as Moses.
  2. The duties of Moses were divided between Joshua and the High Priest (Numbers 27:15-23).
- B. When Joshua died, the Israelites were again left with what they considered to be no tangible evidence of God's presence.
  1. The book of Judges deals with their disobedience and rebellion due to walking by sight and not faith.
  2. They consistently turned to idols when each judge fulfilled his role as leader and deliverer.
- C. However, God had not left them to wander aimlessly on their own.
  1. He gave them His book to guide them (Deuteronomy 12:1-8).
  2. He gave them His priesthood to educate them (Leviticus 10:8-11; 2 Chronicles 15:3; 17:8-9; Micah 3:11; Malachi 2:7).
  3. He gave them the High Priest to mediate for them (cf. Judges 1:1).
- D. Yet, God's Word and His way were not good enough for them.
  1. They ignored, rejected, and disobeyed the Law of Moses.
  2. They neglected the worship and service at the Tabernacle.
  3. The priests failed in their role of educating the people.
  4. They failed to ask God for guidance in their works.
- E. Sadly, their attitudes continue to flourish – even in the church.

- III. Walking by Sight Led to Immaturity
- A. God was a perfect and faithful King to Israel.
  - B. However, when they walked by sight, they desired an imperfect, inferior king chosen from among men.
  - C. They did what was right in their eyes instead of doing what is right in God's eyes.

Conclusion:

- 1. Walking by faith brings blessings (Leviticus 26:1-12).
- 2. Walking by sight brings suffering (Leviticus 26:13-39).
- 3. Repentance brings salvation (Leviticus 26:40-46).
- 4. How are you walking?