**September 2020**

**Right In His Own Eyes**

The book of Judges ends with the phrase, “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Comparing the culture in which we now live to that which existed in Israel at the time of the judges, makes for interesting discussion. When there is no moral standard used to guide how people live, the people rule themselves and “everyone does what is right in his own eyes.” This leads to a general moral decline with all kinds of behavior being tolerated and even promoted as God-pleasing. Natural sexual relations are exchanged for unnatural ones. Children and babies are sacrificed to false gods. Peaceful demonstrations erupt in violence and destruction and are called good. False spiritualities and religions arise and become popular claiming to help people live better lives. People are forced to not just acknowledge certain ideologies or beliefs but must promote them or be labeled, humiliated, treated harshly and ostracized. Sound familiar?

Just because people choose not to believe in God, doesn’t mean that God doesn’t exist. The book of Judges demonstrates a God who loves his people and remains faithful to his people even when they reject him. It shows a God who repeatedly sends men and women to rescue his lost people and return them to their God. During this process some people return to worshipping the one true God. God loves his people and shows great restraint with a willingness to forgive and restore them to his keeping. But the majority of the people just stubbornly refuse to return, again and again and again. They just don’t want to belong to him. Even though they owe not only their lives but their very existence to him, they refuse to acknowledge his existence or their need for Him.

This ever-faithful God time after time sent rescuers to deliver Israel from their oppressors. Later He went so far as to send His own dear Son, Jesus to save them. The cross reminds Christians of what God can and will do to win people back.

Through all this, Christians are called to live holy lives. What this entails is clearly laid out for us in the bible. Ignorance of the law is no excuse, for God has written this Law on our hearts. It is called a conscience. However, sin has not only ruined our relationship with God, but has also corrupted our conscience, So He moved men to write the Law down in the Holy Scriptures so that we would know the truth about how much He loves us and what kind of life pleases Him. Jesus came to save us from our sins and return us to a right relationship with our heavenly Father so that we can live with him forever.

On the day He returns all will acknowledge and bow before Him. Until that Day, we pray that we will be among those he comes to take home.

In His service, Pastor Petrich

**Upcoming Hymns and Readings** [Underlined and Bold type Verses are the Sermon Text]

**Sunday Aug. 30th** :

Ps. 26; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; **Matthew 16:21-28**

 LSB Pg. 184

HYMNS: #427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”; #688 “‘Come Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”; #722 “Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me”

 Distr: #718 “Jesus Lead Thou On”; #685 “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

**Sunday Sept. 6th** :

Ps. 32:1-7; Ezekiel 33:7-9; **Romans 13:1-10**; Matthew 18:1-20

 LSB Pg. 151

HYMNS: #966 “Before You, Lord, We Bow”; #820 “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”; #965 “God Bless Our Native Land””

 Distr: #611 “Chief of Sinners though I Be”; # 915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”; #711 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”;

**Sunday Sept. 13th** :

Ps. 103:1-12; Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; **Matthew 18:21-35**

 LSB Pg. 184

HYMNS: #790 “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”; #501 “Come Down, O Love Divine”; #606 “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

 Distr: #609 “Sinners Jesus Doth Receive”; #851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”; #845 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

**Sunday Sept. 20th** :

Ps. 27:1-9; **Isaiah 55:6-9**; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

 LSB Pg. 151

HYMNS: #565 “Thy Works Not Mine, O Christ”; #720 “We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight”; #705 “The Man Is Ever Blessed”

 Distr: #631 “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”; #557 “Seek Where You May to Find a Way”; #555 “Salvation Unto Us Has Come”