

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JUDGES 17-21

The last chapters in Judges, along with the book of Ruth, provide us three episodes from the pre-king period of Hebrew history. **Ruth is a ray of sunshine.** Her story shows how a few people willingly placed *principle* above *pleasure*. *But Ruth was the exception!*

The stories in Judges 17-21 were more indicative of the times. They reveal just how far a society deteriorates when “everyone does what is right in their own eyes...” I call it, “The Outback philosophy”...

Outback Steakhouse use to have a commercial where a truck-load of good-looking Blokes and Sheilas drive pass warning signs onto the beach. They break the law to have a frolicking party, with bloom’n onions and steaks. All the while a spokesperson chants the Outback Steakhouse motto, “No Rules, Just Right.”

Once, at an Outback Steakhouse, I asked my waiter if I could substitute cheese fries for regular fries... *easy enough!* But you would’ve thought I wanted to change the US Constitution... *The waiter was adamant. No way, and why? It was against the rules!* I said, “What about, NO RULES, JUST RIGHT?” Well, I learned that motto only applies when it’s in the restaurant’s favor.

And this is what happens in an amoral society. All civilization requires rules! But toss out **God’s rules**, and the only rules left are made by powerful people to serve their own selfish interests. The results are nasty and brutal. *Consider the last five chapters in Judges...*

The first story in Chapters 17-18 centers around a man named “*Micah.*” I call him, “messed up Mike.” Chapter 17 shows how convoluted his life had become.

“Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. And he said to his mother, “The 1100 shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears - here is the silver with me; I took it.” The first thing we learn about *messed up Mike* is he stole money from his own mother. Maybe he was betting on NFL games or into online poker, and needed the silver to feed his addiction. Well, *he confesses to his messes* only when he realizes mama’s money carries a curse.

“His mother said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my son! So when he had returned the 1100 shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, “I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image

and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you.” And here it gets bizarre... *Messed up Mike* has a *messed up mom*. She dedicated the silver to Yahweh to make a carved image for her son. But graven images were forbidden by *the second of the Ten Commandments*. She attempts to honor God by violating His own command. Like the guy who stole a Bible so he could attend the Bible study. *This woman wants to serve God, but in her own way.*

And how many people today, have the same idea? Lots of folk want to tip their hat to God, but not give up any control of their lives. That's messed up for sure!

“Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took 200 shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.” Here's an oxymoron - *a visible image of the unseen God*. A silversmith confines the Almighty to a talisman.

Verse 5, “The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.” In the name of the one true God, Micah constructs his own shrine, sets up his own image of God, makes his own priestly uniform or ephod, and selects his own priest. He violates every detail of God's Law in an attempt to worship God.

Recall, private shrines were forbidden by God. OT worship was *corporate* not *private* - highly centralized. Worship was to be carried out in the Tabernacle by the Levites. Micah and son were from the tribe of Ephraim.

Graven images were not to aid in worship. As Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Verse 6 sums up Micah's problem. “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Micah had a side to himself that desired to be spiritual. Perhaps he had a real longing for God... But rather than submit to God's will, and pursue Him the way He requires - Micah opted for a tailor-made religion - His own brand of spirituality.

Micah wanted to be “*spiritual*” and “*religious*” - but his spirituality had little to do with the Bible. Rather it was a hodge-podge of Judaism, superstition, the occult. It was based on experience and preference, not the truth of God's Word... *Hey, welcome to our modern world!*

Every survey today tells us that interest in spirituality is up, while commitment to biblical truth is down.

In the book “*American Demographics*,” Cimino and Lattin explain what kind of religion people today desire. “*It's a religion of the heart, not of the head. It's practical*

and personal, more about stress reduction than salvation, more therapeutic than theological. It's about feeling good, not being good. It's as much about the body as it is about the soul." People want a convenient spirituality without *moral absolutes* and *ultimate authority*. They want a *designer religion* not *biblical truth*. They're happy to embrace Jesus as a potential *guide, or helper, or coach, or friend...* but "**Jesus is Lord**" doesn't fit with modern notions of spirituality.

I once saw an article in the Washington Post titled, "**A Church Away From Church.**" Apparently, there's a growing trend toward establishing "*prayer rooms*" or "*meditation seats*" or "*home altars.*" People are creating their own "*sacred space*" at home. One lady spoke of her bedroom altar, "**It symbolizes an amalgam of personal beliefs and experiences... provides me with a more intimate and meaningful form of worship than any religious institution could offer...**" Her altar has several idols (or goddesses), Roman Catholic candles, items held sacred by Native Americans... It's *mixed-up Mike* all over again. Today's spirituality is a quagmire of *religious sentiment* divorced from *biblical truth*. It's a heretical blend - and has little to do with Christianity.

Mixed up Mike's situation worsens in verse 7, "**Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.**" A real, bonafide priest stumbles into the picture, *a Levite with proper credentials*. Micah thinks he can gain legitimacy for his religion by hiring his own priest.

So he makes an offer, verse 10, "**Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance.**" *Not a bad wage.* "**So the Levite went in. Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him. So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in (his) house...**" *Messed up Mike* buys himself a priest! And now on his payroll, this personal priest will tell Mike exactly what he wants to hear... And I'm afraid lots of watered down churches today have done the same. They buy their own Levite to preach weekly, but only what they want to hear.

"**Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"**" His faith is nothing but superstition! The Levite is a good luck charm. And this is how some folks treat church today. They come hoping it makes them lucky the next week.

This whole set-up was a gross violation of God's law. Drop down to 18:31, the author reminds us, "**So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.**" God-sanctioned worship was in Shiloh, at the Tabernacle. Micah was **spiritual**, but not **obedient**.

Spirituality and *godliness* are not the same! You can claim to be spiritual, yet ignore God's revealed truth. Spiritual people can miss God, and worship the wrong spirit! Godliness is spirituality that obeys God's Word.

This is why you need more than a "personal guru" or "spiritual trainer." True spirituality, a real connection to God, can't be personalized to private tastes. "*Religion a la carte*" is trendy - but true worship is all about worshipping God the way He wants to be worshipped.

Chapter 18 "In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them." It hadn't "fallen to them" because they hadn't seized it. Dan was allotted a tract of land along the south Canaan coast. But Philistines were inhabiting Dan's territory and they lacked the courage to drive out the occupants. Rather than fight it was easier to flee.

So they send five men north in search of an easier place to dwell. As they pass through the mountains of Ephraim they spend the night at Micah's house. And they recognize the priest. In verse 3 they ask him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place?" And so the Levite tells them about the deal he made with Micah. They ask him to bless their journey.

And they find a new land to settle. Laish, north of the Sea of Galilee, on the border of Israel and Sidon, was a mountain town - near the headwaters of the Jordan River. *Visit Israel with us and we'll hike the Dan Nature Reserve.* The land is rich and fertile. Laish's northern neighbor, Sidon, lived more on the Mediterranean coast, leaving Laish isolated. In essence, Laish was unattended prime real estate. So in verses 8-10 the spies return and convince the Danites to move there.

Verse 11, "And 600 men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war." And on their way to Laish, the Danites stop again in the mountains of Ephraim, at the house of *messed up Mike* and his *messed up priest*.

Verse 14, "Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do." Rather than seek God's will, notice the suggestion, "*consider what you should do?*" *This was when everyone did what was right in their own eyes!*

"So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man - to the house of Micah - and greeted him." The Danites though don't just greet him, they grab

his idols, his priestly clothes, his religious trinkets. In verse 18 the Levite asks them, "What are you doing?" They said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth (shhhh), and come with us; be a father and a priest to us." *Listen to our offer, "Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"*

When the priest tries to stop the thieves, they buy him off! And notice the offer, "Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe..." *Hey, come with us and you can pastor a bigger church!* This is a step up for the Levite, a *promotion*. Hey, he wasn't committed to Micah. He was a hired gun - a priest for sale. He was open to the highest bidder. They say "every man has his price." That was certainly true of this Levite. He was a sell out.

It turns out this priest wasn't committed to God or Micah... And it's sad today, when a pastor pursues a better offer, a more lucrative job, rather than God's will. *Why are pastors never called to a smaller church?*

"So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people. Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them." Of course, Micah and his neighbors refuse to take this lying down. They come after the priest, verse 23, "So (the Danites) turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?" So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away." How foolish to worship a god you created, rather than the God who created you!... Yet Micah despairs, "Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?' "

And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!" As I said in the beginning, when a society throws out God's laws; then the rules are made by people in power for their own advantage. The law of the jungle goes into effect. It's now "might makes right."

"Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house." *How tragic to worship a god that can be stolen!* Here's the problem with today's "feel good faith" and "recipe religion" - it won't survive tough times. Storms will steal away your faith. Only a faith tied to the true God, Jesus, can never be stolen!

The rest of Chapter 18 tells us how the city of Laish was defeated, burned, and renamed "*Dan*." And the Levite, Jonathan, served as the tribe's own personal priest. *He was the best priest money could buy...*

But according to verse 31 all the while *God's sanctioned priesthood* ministered in Shiloh... *Designer religion* makes you feel good, but it never pleases God.

And here's another problem with *wrong worship* - it produces *wrong living*. *Ungodliness* leads to *unrighteousness*. *Believe wrong and you'll behave wrong*. It's said, "**When God goes, anything goes.**"

And the final, grizzly story in Judges shows how utterly immoral ungodly people become. *This story will cause the hair on the back of your neck to stand up...*

Chapter 19, "**And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim.**" This is a different Levite, but also living in the mountains of Ephraim. He was of the tribe of Benjamin.

"He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah." Again, this is indicative of the moral decline in Israel that a Levite, a man of God, takes a concubine.

Concubines were never God's idea. But they were common in antiquity. Hagar was Abraham's concubine. Jacob had two concubines. A concubine was a legal mistress - officially bound, but with fewer privileges than a wife. She was considered the man's property.

But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months." The Levite pondered what he should do. He decides to go after her, speak kindly to her, and bring her back. He's got some regrets and wants to restore his marriage.

He goes to Bethlehem, meets his father-in-law, and stays three days. Verse 5, "**It came to pass on the fourth day that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart, but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way." So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together.**" It was now late in the day, so dad suggests they stay another night... then another... then the next morning... finally, verse 8, "**They delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate.**" But this time, enough was enough...

Verse 10, "**However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came to opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem).**" Bethlehem to Jerusalem was just a few miles - they hadn't been on the road long. But it was getting dark, so his servant asks if they should lodge in Jebus. The Levite says, "**no.**" He assumes it'll be safer for them in an Israelite city. Wow, that'll be a miscalculation. It turns out the pagans were more moral than God's chosen people.

They end up in Gibeah, a city within the borders of Benjamin. Verse 15, "**And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into**

his house to spend the night.”

That’s when an old man comes from the fields, and approaches the travelers. He asks, “Where are you going, and where do you come from?” The Levite says he’s been in Bethlehem and is headed to the house of the LORD. His destination is the Tabernacle in Shiloh.

At the end of verse 18 he says, “But there is no one who will take me into his house, although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything.” He has ample provision, and won’t be a burden on anyone. And with that said, the fact no one would take them in was a clue that something was wrong in Gibeah. When there’s no simple hospitality among God’s people - *a people who had been shown great hospitality by God* - something is terribly amiss.

“And the old man said, “Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square.” *And we’re about to discover why that’s a bad idea.* “So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.”

Verse 22, “As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!” Sodom and Gomorrah has come to Israel. These Benjaminites were homosexual rapists. Their conscience was seared. Natural, sexual intercourse with a woman no longer satisfied them. They were controlled by sexual deviance and violence.

“But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.” In antiquity hospitality was a sacred trust. The safety and welfare of a guest was the God-given responsibility of his host.

But this old man goes overboard! He shouts to the rapists, “Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!” Hospitality or not, custom or no custom, what kind of a man hands over two girls to be molested by a gang of *ruthless rapists*? Neither the old man, or the Levite, had any backbone at all.

Verse 25, “But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.” This gives us insight as to why the

concubine ran off with another man in the first place. She had probably never really been loved by this Levite. The *callousness* and *cowardice* of this man is amazing.

Remember he's a Levite, a man of God. Yet he grabs the girl he's suppose to love, and throws her into the street to pacify a mob of sexual predators. Savages spend the whole night gang raping this woman. Only when the sun *comes up* that the perverts *break up...*

Years ago, I read of a similar crime which took place in New York's Central Park. A group of teenagers went "*wilding*" - as it was called. They went on a crazed rampage of mayhem and anarchy. When an innocent jogger crossed their path the poor lady was brutalized and gang raped. *Not much has changed in 3400 years.* Recall the phrase, "**When God goes, anything goes!**"

Verse 26, "**Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.**" It seems the man had planned to just ignore the girl, but with her lying over the threshold he can't. "**He said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer.**" She was dead. She was raped and murdered *as he slept.*

"So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place." But on the way home the horror of what had taken place began to sink in. He'd turned into Gibeah since it was an Israeli city. Never in his wildest imagination did he think his own brothers, God's chosen people, were capable of such atrocities.

"When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into 12 pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel." He dismembers the corpse, packs the bloody pieces onto a donkey, and turns it loose. Such a terrible crime can't be hidden. People need to know. Here's a form of social media... *The news goes viral...*

Verse 30 **"And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"** The woman's bloody body was proof of the savagery that occurred in Gibeah, and got the attention of all Israel.

And today, God uses another bloody body to grab the attention of all the nations. The crucified body of Jesus, *not a concubine, but a sinless man*, shocks us to attention and speaks of the savagery of our own sin.

Chapter 20, **"So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba..."** Dan was the northern-most city in Israel. Beersheba the southern-most. **"From Dan to Beersheba"** is similar to saying **"from north to south."**

“As well as from the land of Gilead (the news even reached the tribes east of the Jordan River), and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah. And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 foot soldiers who drew the sword. (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) The perpetrators in Gibeah were Benjamites. And for good reason, they aren’t invited to the meeting.

Of course the children of Israel want to know how this woman was ravaged. The Levite tells the story, but with some spin. He leaves out the detail of his own cruelty - *how he sacrificed the girl to save his own skin*. Only now does he care... something needs to be done!

Verse 8, “So all the people arose as one man, saying, “None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house; but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot. We will take 10 men out of every 100 throughout all the tribes of Israel, a 100 out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every 10,000, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel. So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.”

At first, the tribes of Israel give the other Benjamites the opportunity to fight with them against Gibeah. But they refuse to turn on their fellow tribesmen. Instead, they come to Gibeah’s defense. *A civil war is brewing*.

Israel had 400,000 troops ready for battle. Benjamin mustered just 26,700, and only 700 of them were from Gibeah. You’d think Benjamin and Gibeah would be overwhelmed, but a few factors even out the battle...

First, Gibeah was a mountainous city and easily defensible... Second, Benjamin had 700 left-handed, sling-shot, sharpshooters who could hit a target within a *“hair’s breadth.”* When the Israelites climbed the hilly terrain snipers could pick them off one at a time.

And in the beginning, Benjamin prevails. They win the first two battles decisively. Israel loses 40,000 men. And why does God allow Benjamin to win the first two rounds? *We’re not sure!* Perhaps, Israel’s numerical advantage made them overconfident. God needed to humble them... Verse 26, “Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, “Shall I yet again go

out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand." God sees humility and says give it one more try.

This time Israel sets up an ambush. They draw the Benjaminites out of the city. Benjamin achieves some initial success, but they get drawn too far from Gibeah.

Israel attacks them with 10,000 Army Rangers. Verse 34 tells us the fighting was fierce. But the Benjaminites had strayed too far which allowed other Israelites to set Gibeah ablaze. When the Benjaminites saw their city going up in smoke they panicked and were defeated.

Verse 47 "But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months. And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword - from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to."

Chapter 21 provides a strategic detail, "Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, "None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."

Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly, and said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?" The tribe of Benjamin is now 600 men shy of extinction. The refugees at Rimmon are the only survivors, and since they're all men, how can they replenish their tribe? Verse 6, "And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today. What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"

"And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?" One city had been missing at the gathering in Mizpah, *Jabesh Gilead*. And to punish the city for not fighting with the other Israelites they annihilate everyone but 400 virgin daughters, who get brought back to Shiloh.

It was a ruthless act. And realize, nobody here is seeking the Lord. Everyone is just making it up as they go... And when that happens, it becomes very difficult to differentiate the good guys from the bad guys.

Verse 13, "Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them. So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women

of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.” Only 400 of the 600 Rimmon refugees receive a wife. “And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.”

Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?" And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel. However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, 'Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.'" *But humans always come up with a plan.*

“Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.” Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go, lie in wait in the vineyards, and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.” Remember, Shiloh was home to the tabernacle. Thus, the “*daughters of Shiloh*” may’ve been an order of single women devoted to the service of God. Well, they’re service is now needed in a most unusual way - *200 Benjaminite bachelors lack a bride*. So the boys from Benjamin are to hide in the bushes, and when the sisters from Shiloh start to dance; *they’re to just jump out and grab a wife!*

And I suppose, *lived happily ever after!* Hopefully, the girls kept dancing, while the guys kept chasing...

And after catching you a wife, “Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, 'Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.’” The men of Israel can rest easy. They didn’t violate their war-time oath. This was a post-war action... And these girls were never **given**. They were **taken** by Benjaminites... Thus, their oath was intact.

The men of Benjamin follow through on the plan. They *restart their families and rebuild their cities...*

And the best way to describe today’s study is, *what a mess!*... The last verse of Judges, 21:25 tells us, “*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*” And the result was *confusion, chaos, carnality, carnage, cowardice, etc...*

They say the first lesson an airplane pilot learns is not to trust his own eyes - *his view from the cockpit is limited* - he needs to follow the tower's instructions.

That's why when we tell folks to "live your own truth," or "follow your heart" we destine them to crash. *We have a king!* King Jesus has not left it up to us to guess at life - or wing it - or make it up as we go. We have *His Word* and *His Spirit*. He knows best how we should live our lives. Bow before King Jesus, let Him set the rules!