



Give Us a Standard Judges 21:25

It must be obvious to every _____ American that we do have a serious and rapidly growing moral problem in our beloved country. The _____ is the Lord's Way to live – and to treat each other.

Our country was founded by people who sought the freedom to be _____ to God. Now, our once proud and mighty nation is in a state of _____, because we have rejected God and abandoned truth for the preconceived new freedom. Now in our days, freedom means everybody does what is “right in his _____” (Judges 21:25). We are saying, “God give us a _____.”

The _____ for a standard in morals and religious faith is critical today. We need a standard – a _____ that will be truth everywhere and always, to all people – a standard by which all of us can determine what is _____ and what is _____. The pluralism of the prevailing postmodern thought is just not _____. It's wreaking havoc on our _____ faith and morals. Oh, how we do need a standard; something by which everyone can live and be _____ he is doing and believing what's right.

In religion today, there is no standard; each _____ has its own authoritative council or maybe it is a creed that defines truth for them. What is _____ to be right for one group is not right for others. Each one _____ what is “right in his own eyes.” The _____ is confusion and chaos – even unbelief.

The one short verse of our text aptly describes, not only the conditions that existed in a period of some of the formative days of Israel's history, but it just as aptly describes the conditions in _____ period of religious and moral decline in America. The _____ is God's word. When man _____ it and sets his own rules for life, he is on a downward course to _____. Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet who wept over the sinful and condemned state of Israel cried, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in _____: it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).

It's an awesome truth that God has _____ and revealed His way to man. It is awesome not only because it's inspired and inspiring and wondrous, but because it's fearful and appalling and it makes a dreadful _____ on man for an appropriate _____. The only such response is _____ to it. God does not speak to us directly and personally, or through the traditions of our ancestry, not through the councils of the best-of-intentioned men, neither in the creeds written by the most scholarly of them, but through His word, the _____. There is our _____. Scripture is given by God and is all that is necessary to equip us for “every good _____” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must get _____ to it. Sinners can _____; the word of God has the _____ to do that (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

The Lord's way of life described in the Scriptures is the _____ to the loss of faith and the depraved state of our American morality. When we open the Bible to study it, we must really and truthfully want to _____ our faith and our lives to it as God's everlasting and unchangeable standard. We must always be on _____ against imposing our opinions and prejudices on the word of God, and of trying to use the Bible to justify our preconceived ideas and twisted views. Faith is _____ everything God says in His word, and conforming our lives to it. This is what the apostle _____ says of himself in Galatians 2:20. Of course, you couldn't say that of yourself, if you hadn't done as he did in _____ obedience to God's will. Read Acts chapters 9, 22, and 26. It will inspire you and it will encourage you to _____ in Christ and to _____ Him, to _____ of your sins and to be _____ to have sins washed away.

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