

September 18, 2011/Psalm 38:1-5, 9/Jeremiah 16:6-15/Matthew 13:37-44  
Startled By The Truth Of The Gospel: Sin & Its Cost  
Rev. Daniel D. Rasmussen

We live in the era of the New Testament. By the church it is called and known as the era of grace, and the Old Testament is known as the era of the Law.

USA Today:

[usatoday.com/news/religion/story/2011-09-14/america-religious-denominations/50376288/1](http://usatoday.com/news/religion/story/2011-09-14/america-religious-denominations/50376288/1)

*Exactly, says Carol Christoffel of Zion, Ill. She drifted through a few mainline Protestant denominations in her youth, found a home in the peace and unity message of the Baha'i tradition for several years, and then was drawn deeply into Native American traditional healing practices.*

*Yet, she also still calls herself Christian.*

*And it's not only Christians sampling hopscotch spirituality. The Jewish magazine Moment has an "Ask the Rabbis" feature that consults 14 variations of Judaism, "and there are many," says editor and publisher Nadine Epstein.*

*"The September edition of Moment asks 'Can there be Judaism without God?' And most say yes. It's incredibly exciting. We live in an era where you pick and choose the part of the religion that makes sense to you. And you can connect through culture and history in a meaningful way without necessarily religiously practicing," Epstein says.*

**"In those days Israel had no \_\_\_\_\_; everyone did as he \_\_\_\_\_."** Judges 17:6

**"In those days Israel had no \_\_\_\_\_; everyone did as he \_\_\_\_\_."** Judges 21:25

Let me tell you why those verses scare me so much. It isn't all the gruesome, sex filled, detestable war mongering in Judges that was the source of the problem. Let's be real clear about that! That was the side-effect of the problem. That was the symptom of the problem. The problem was that everyone did as they saw fit. **It is the problem of sin and its cost.** The people lost their collective conscience. They sold their minds out to depravity, sin, the devil, whatever you want to use to describe it.

USA Today: "Barna laments, "People say, 'I believe in God. I believe the Bible is a good book. And then I believe whatever I want.'"

In Ireland, more particularly Northern Ireland, there have been Civilians killed: 1857\*, Total dead: 3524\*. This my fellow believers, is a war between Catholics and Protestants. Northern Ireland is believer against believer.

When the US went to war in the Civil War did you know that there was an SME and an ME Church?

One well qualified and documented website lists the numbers of the 20 bloodiest wars equal a staggering: 275,000,000! (include those who died in the slave trade). You can find this at:

<http://necrometrics.com>

The very Jewish Race suffered a staggering reduction of 6,000,000 people in just 6 years. 1939=16,728,000. 1945=11,000,000. [jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://jewishvirtuallibrary.org)

**We must grasp the reality of wars and times of judgment:**

1) Either God quit caring about man fighting war  
2) or wars used to be about God's judgment/and God just plain quit judging 3) or He never did use war as a punishment and the OT is just plain off. 4) Or, there is no God and man is on his own.  
We aren't left with many options that are attractive!

**In the end, after all**

**this talk of war, one thing is true: the cost of sin is death!**

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Romans 5:8-10