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|  | **LightHouse Ranch**  **Bible Study** |

***A Religious Snare -*** [***Judges 6***-8](swordsearcher://bible/judg6-8) ***with*** [***Romans 1-2***](swordsearcher://bible/rom1-2)

**I. The Fourth Cycle**

**II. Contrast - Relationship with God Vs. Religious Snare**

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**The Religion Trap**

**I. The Fourth Cycle**

**We have experienced Israel’s first four cycles of sin’s devolution , then Israel crying out to God and God delivering with a judge. There had been 200 years of peace between these victories from the LORD. There was 40 years of rest until Otniel, son of Caleb, died, eighty, years while Ehud was alive, forty years until Deborah died, and another forty years until Gideon died.**

**Gideon, by obeying God, delivered Israel out of great bondage by completely defeating the Midianites. Truly Gideon was a conqueror as he communed with God and obeyed; but was he more than a conqueror as we read about last week in Romans 8? Gideon, as many today, went through his trial of faith without wavering, but slacked after victory and fell for the religious trap brought to him by man’s enemy, Satan. In the battle, Gideon’s heart was right on with God, but his affections gradually succumbed to the pull of the world in the years following the victory.**

**I think this is what the Apostle Paul was talking about to the church at Colosse, as Paul was not there, but was there in spirit because of their steadfastness in the LORD. As they reckoned themselves dead with Christ, they should rise with Him in newness of life:**

[**Colossians 3:1**](swordsearcher://bible/col3.1-16) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.  
**Colossians 3:2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.  
**Colossians 3:3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.  
**Colossians 3:4** When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.  
**Colossians 3:5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:  
**Colossians 3:6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:  
**Colossians 3:7** In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.  
**Colossians 3:8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.  
**Colossians 3:9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;  
**Colossians 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:  
**Colossians 3:11** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.  
**Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;  
**Colossians 3:13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.  
**Colossians 3:14** And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.  
**Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.  
**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Notice as the New Testament teaches Christ’s appearing, always included is walking in holiness**

**After the Song of Deborah, the land had rest forty years, then…**

[**Judges 6:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg1.1) And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

**The Israelites are reduced to living in dens and caves**  
[**Judges 6:2**](swordsearcher://bible/judg1.2) And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: *and* because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which *are* in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

**The Midianites and Amalekites destroy the harvest and the livestock unto Gaza**

[**Judges 6:3**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.3-5) And *so* it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;  
**Judges 6:4** And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.  
**Judges 6:5** For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; *for* both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

**The children of Israel cry unto the LORD because of the Midianite destruction of Israel**  
[**Judges 6:6**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6-7) And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.  
**Judges 6:7** And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,

**The LORD sends a prophet to Israel with a message from God concerning their disobedience**  
[**Judges 6:8**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.8-10) That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;  
**Judges 6:9** And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land;  
**Judges 6:10** And I said unto you, I *am* the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

**Angel of the LORD appears to Joah’s son Gideon, descendant of Abiezer** ([6:24](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.24); [8:32](swordsearcher://bible/Jg8.32))  
[**Judges 6:11**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.11-12) And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which *was* in Ophrah, that *pertained* unto Joash the Abi-ezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide *it* from the Midianites.  
**Judges 6:12** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD *is* with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

**Gideon is sent to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites**  
[**Judges 6:13**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.13-14) And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.  
**Judges 6:14** And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

**How could I save Israel?**  
[**Judges 6:15**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.15) And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.

**Surely, I will be with thee**  
[**Judges 6:16**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.6.16) And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

**Gideon wants a sign that you are God that is talking with me**  
[**Judges 6:17**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.17-18) And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.  
**Judges 6:18** Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set *it* before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

**Gideon prepares the LORD’s sacrifice**  
[**Judges 6:19**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.19) And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought *it* out unto him under the oak, and presented *it*.

**The angel of God instructs Gibeon concerning the sacrifice**  
[**Judges 6:20**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.20) And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay *them* upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

**Fire consumes the sacrifice – Sweet Smelling savor to God**  
[**Judges 6:21**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.21) Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that *was* in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

**II.** **Contrast - A Relationship with God Vs. A Religious Snare**

**Gideon perceives that He was an angel of the LORD – Gideon builds an altar**  
[**Judges 6:22**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.22-24) And when Gideon perceived that he *was* an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.  
**Judges 6:23** And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.  
**Judges 6:24** Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it *is* yet in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

**And that same night…**  
[**Judges 6:25**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.25-27) And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that *is* by it:  
**Judges 6:26** And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.  
**Judges 6:27** Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and *so* it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do *it* by day, that he did *it* by night.

**And early the next morning – Israel had taken on the snare - sin (religion) of the world**  
[**Judges 6:28**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.28) And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that *was* by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar *that was* built.

**The people of the town wonder who tore down the altar and grove of Baal**[**Judges 6:29**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.29) And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

**The people of Ophrah want Gideon to die – Joash: Will you plead for Baal?**  
[**Judges 6:30**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.30-31) Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that *was* by it.  
**Judges 6:31** And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst *it is yet* morning: if he *be* a god, let him plead for himself, because *one* hath cast down his altar.

**That day, the people of Ophrah called Gideon Jerubbaal**  
[**Judges 6:32**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.32) Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

**The Midianites and Amalekites pitch in the Valley of Jezreel ready for war**  
[**Judges 6:33**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.33) Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

**The Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon**  
[**Judges 6:34**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.34-35) But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him.  
**Judges 6:35** And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

**III.** **Two Signs about Saving Israel – (Prophesied Israel’s jealousy of the Gentiles)**

**First sign – Fleece Contained a bowl of water – The Living Water upon Israel**  
[**Judges 6:36**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.36-38) And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,  
**Judges 6:37** Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew be on the fleece only, and *it be* dry upon all the earth *beside*, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.  
**Judges 6:38** And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

**Second Sign – the fleece is dry (Israel symbolized) the ground covered with dew (Gentiles)**   
[**Judges 6:39**](swordsearcher://bible/judg6.39-40) And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.  
**Judges 6:40** And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

**IV.** **Divine Intelligence given before the war**

**Gideon (Jerubbaal) and army pitched beside the wall of Harod – south of Jezreel**

[**Judges 7:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.1) Then Jerubbaal, who *is* Gideon, and all the people that *were* with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

**You have Too Many in your Army! – Any fearful leave – 22,000 becomes 10,000 men**  
[**Judges 7:2**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.2-3) And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.  
**Judges 7:3** Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

**Still too many Soldiers! – Keep only those who lap water – 10,000 reduced to 300 men**  
[**Judges 7:4**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.4-7) And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people *are* yet *too* many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, *that* of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.  
**Judges 7:5** So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

**Judges 7:6** And the number of them that lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.  
**Judges 7:7** And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the *other* people go every man unto his place.

**The 300 man army is located just above the camp of Midian on a hill**  
[**Judges 7:8**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.8-9) So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all *the rest of* Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.  
**Judges 7:9** And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

**If you fear, take Phurah, your servant with you**  
[**Judges 7:10**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.10-11) But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:  
**Judges 7:11** And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

**The Midianites had a great company of men**  
[**Judges 7:12**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.12) And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

**Gideon goes to the host and what does he hear the enemy saying?**  
[**Judges 7:13**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.13-14) And when Gideon was come, behold, *there was* a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.  
**Judges 7:14** And his fellow answered and said, This *is* nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: *for* into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

**V.** **Gideon’s Obedience**

**Arise, the LORD hath delivered into your hand Midian and all his host**  
[**Judges 7:15**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.15) And it was *so*, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

**Divide the company in 3 – Each with a trumpet, lamp, and pitcher**  
[**Judges 7:16**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.16) And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

**As I do, so shall you do**  
[**Judges 7:17**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.17-18) And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do.  
**Judges 7:18** When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD, and of Gideon.

**Break the pitchers, hold lamps-blow trumpets-& yell, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon”**  
[**Judges 7:19**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.19-20) So Gideon, and the hundred men that *were* with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that *were* in their hands.  
**Judges 7:20** And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

**All the host ran, cried & fled**  
[**Judges 7:21**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.21-22) And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.  
**Judges 7:22** And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zererath, *and* to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

**Israel calls out of Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh & chase after the Midianites**  
[**Judges 7:23**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.23-25) And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

**Judges 7:24** And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan.  
**Judges 7:25** And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

**Why didn’t you call Ephrim?**

[**Judges 8:1**](swordsearcher://bible/judg7.1-3) And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.  
**Judges 8:2** And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? *Is* not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi-ezer?  
**Judges 8:3** God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

**Gideon crosses Jordon with Hungary, weary men**

[**Judges 8:4**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.4) And Gideon came to Jordan, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men that *were* with him, faint, yet pursuing *them*.

**Gideon speaks with the men of Succoth**  
[**Judges 8:5**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.5-9) And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they *be* faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

**Judges 8:6** And the princes of Succoth said, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

**Judges 8:7** And Gideon said, Therefore when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.  
**Judges 8:8** And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.  
**Judges 8:9** And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

**Gibeon discomfited all the host and took the kings of Midian**  
[**Judges 8:10**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.10-12) Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand *men*, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.  
**Judges 8:11** And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was secure.  
**Judges 8:12** And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.

**Gideon returns from Battle before sunrise**  
[**Judges 8:13**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.13-14) And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun *was up*,  
**Judges 8:14** And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and inquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, *even* threescore and seventeen men.

**Gibeon beat down the tower of Penuel and slew the men of Succoth**  
[**Judges 8:15**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.15-17) And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men *that are* weary?  
**Judges 8:16** And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.  
**Judges 8:17** And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

**Gideon speaks with the kings of Midian**  
[**Judges 8:18**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.18-20) Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men *were they* whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou *art*, so *were* they; each one resembled the children of a king.  
**Judges 8:19** And he said, They *were* my brethren, *even* the sons of my mother: *as* the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.  
**Judges 8:20** And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, *and* slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he *was* yet a youth.

**Gideon slew both kings because his firstborn was young and scared**[**Judges 8:21**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.21) Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us: for as the man *is, so is* his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that *were* on their camels' necks.

**I will not rule over you – The LORD will rule over you**  
[**Judges 8:22**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.22-23) Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.  
**Judges 8:23** And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

**VI. After complete Victory, Gideon Falls for a Religious Trap – Rejected kingship**

**But Gideon has a request**  
[**Judges 8:24**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.24-26) And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they *were* Ishmaelites.)  
**Judges 8:25** And they answered, We will willingly give *them*. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.  
**Judges 8:26** And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred *shekels* of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that *was* on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that *were* about their camels' necks.

**Gideon takes the gold and makes an ephod – Country in quietness 40 years**  
[**Judges 8:27**](swordsearcher://bible/judg8.27-32) And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, *even* in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.  
**Judges 8:28** Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.  
**Judges 8:32** And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

**Gideon was a conqueror – But was he more than a conqueror?**

**VII.** **The Cause of Man falling away from God today**

**Apostleship and grace comes by Christ for obedience among all nations**

[**Romans 1:1**](swordsearcher://bible/rom1.1-5) Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,  
**Romans 1:2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)  
**Romans 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;  
**Romans 1:4** And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:  
**Romans 1:5** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

**Ye (plural) also are called of Jesus Christ**  
[**Romans 1:6**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.6) Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

**Paul desires to see the congregation in Rome to impart some spiritual gift**  
[**Romans 1:7**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.7-11) To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.  
**Romans 1:9** For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;  
**Romans 1:10** Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.  
**Romans 1:11** For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

**I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ**  
[**Romans 1:12**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.12-16) That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.  
**Romans 1:13** Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.  
**Romans 1:14** I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.  
**Romans 1:15** So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.  
**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**In the Gospel is the righteousness of God revealed in the walk of faith – Contrasted with God’s wrath**[**Romans 1:17**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**The wrath of God is revealed against all unrighteousness**

[**Romans 1:18**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

**Why is the wrath of God against all unrighteousness?**  
[**Romans 1:19**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

**How does God show all men – invisible and even the Godhead?**  
[**Romans 1:20**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.20) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

**So, all have been taught by God, 3 things that shows their unrighteousness?**  
[**Romans 1:21**](swordsearcher://bible/rom1.21) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Second**

[**Romans 1:22**](swordsearcher://bible/rom1.22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

**Third**  
[**Romans 1:23**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.23) And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

If any or all of these continue…

**God gave them up to uncleanness – out of their own hearts**  
[**Romans 1:24**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.24-25) Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:  
**Romans 1:25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

**And the women:**  
[**Romans 1:26**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.26) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

**And the men**:  
[**Romans 1:27**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

**When it gets to the point that God is not in their knowledge – reprobate mind**  
[**Romans 1:28**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.28-31) And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;  
**Romans 1:29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,  
**Romans 1:30** Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,  
**Romans 1:31** Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

**With knowledge of God’s judgement do and have pleasure in them that do these things**  
[**Romans 1:32**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom1.32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

**And are inexcusable if one does these things and judge others who do them**

[**Romans 2:1**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom2.1-2) Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.  
**Romans 2:2** But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

**V****III. Who is right and who is wrong?**

**Does anyone escape - Who is righteous and who is unrighteous**  
[**Romans 2:3**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom2.3-6) And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?  
**Romans 2:4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?  
**Romans 2:5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Yes, God judges righteously in everything according to a man’s deeds  
**Romans 2:6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

**Even those who with patient continuance in well doing seeking honour and eternal life.**[**Romans 2:7**](swordsearcher://bible/rrom2.7) To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

**And also to the opposite – the contentious obeying unrighteousness, indignation and wrath**  
[**Romans 2:8**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:8-12) But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,  
**Romans 2:9** Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;  
**Romans 2:10** But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:  
**Romans 2:11** For there is no respect of persons with God.  
**Romans 2:12** For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

**Justification does not come from hearing only but doing**  
[**Romans 2:13**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:13) (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

**Even Gentiles who do not have the Word do what is in the Word, are a law unto themselves**  
[**Romans 2:14**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:14-16) For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:  
**Romans 2:15** Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)  
**Romans 2:16** In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.  
**Those that teach – Do you teach yourself? – Jew or Gentile, saint or stranger**

[**Romans 2:17**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2.17-25) Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,  
**Romans 2:18** And knowest *his* will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;  
**Romans 2:19** And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

**Romans 2:20** An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.  
**Romans 2:21** Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?  
**Romans 2:22** Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?  
**Romans 2:23** Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?  
**Romans 2:24** For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.  
**Romans 2:25** For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

**If the Gentile keep the Law won’t this be counted righteousness?**[**Romans 2:26**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:26) Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

**And judge the unrighteous?**  
[**Romans 2:27**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:27) And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

**IX. Circumcise your heart**  
[**Romans 2:28**](swordsearcher://bible/rom2:28-29) For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:  
**Romans 2:29** But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

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