

In America, all are doing what is right in their own eyes

April 30, 2015 By [Randy W. Bright](#)

Last week I was in Florida to see the Passion Play The Story of Jesus that my cousin, Mike Graham, produces each year. After two performances on Friday and Saturday of each weekend for five weekends, he needs to allow his voice to rest, so he asked me to speak at his church Sunday morning.

What I chose to speak about was the condition of the Church in America, and how America is following a similar path to the Israelites, who constantly rejected God.

The first scripture for this message came from the last verse in the book of Judges, which says, "In those days, Israel had no king, so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."

The second scripture came from I Samuel 8:1-21, which describes how Israel asked Samuel for a king.

Samuel was troubled by the request, so he went to God to see what he should do. God said that they were not rejecting Samuel, but that they were rejecting Him, and He instructed Samuel to give them a king. He also told Samuel to sternly warn them about the disasters that would come upon them if they continued to insist that he give them a king.

But they wanted to be like all of the other nations around them, and so Saul was given to them to be their king. God's predictions came true; Saul brought disaster onto Israel.

A.W. Tozer wrote in his book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, that "the history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted it for one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men."

Each day it seems that more and more Americans, some of them self-professed Christians, are rejecting God. It has been a long time coming - Tozer observed this when he wrote that in 1961, and it is no coincidence that America began to accelerate its rejection of God around that time, because

The people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Today, the statistics vary according to whose study you see, but it is widely believed that in America, somewhere between 3,200 and 4,000 churches close each year. One report states that 3,500 people leave the church each day, and another twice that amount at around 2.7 million per year. The people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

After sharing those statistics and others, I cited cases where churches were being rejected from their own communities. One of those cases was that of Rocky Mountain Christian Church in

Boulder County, Colorado, who fought a long legal battle with the county over the county's refusal to allow them to expand their facilities. Another case was closer to home, where one of Tulsa's suburbs forced two churches out of their facilities, and attempted to do the same to a third.

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I cited the quote I received from a city planning consultant, which read, "We are opposed to the mega-church isolated in the countryside or suburbs surrounded by acres of parking. This is an environmentally and socially unsustainable model; it paves the landscape, it forces driving, it isolates the membership from the rest of the community, and it isolates the non-driver from the church. It is profoundly anti-civic."

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Then I come home to see more on the news about Christian businesses being sued for taking a stand against homosexuality, that 56 million children have been murdered in the womb since Roe v. Wade, and it appears that Bill and Hillary sold their souls (and us) (again) for wealth.

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Israel first worshipped God, then they worshipped God and pagan idols, then they forgot God and just worshipped the idols. They asked for a king, because they were tired of the responsibilities that came with being the chosen people and wanted to be like everyone else, and because they were influenced by those who seemed to know what life is really about.

And such is America - we are full of people who do whatever seems right in their own eyes.

But there are also many people in America who have not rejected God. Despite the statistics, churches remain strong in numbers and devotion; there are more than just a few who will not reject God, and that is enough to eventually turn this country back to its Christian roots.



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