

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES FOR YOUR SINNING

Romans 3:8 "Let us do evil that good may result."

Your sinful nature loves to excuse your sinning. Your excuse may be that you love someone so you intentionally tell a lie to protect them or make their life better. Another example would be the Robin Hood approach of stealing from the rich to transfer what you steal to the poor. In telling the lie the one you love may be protected from harm and the money you steal and give to a poor person may put food on their table, but both activities are sins in God's sight. Ultimately, choosing to disobey one or more of God's Commandments means you choose to make yourself god rather than obey Him.

The sinful mind is adept at rationalizing a behavior or personal conduct when deep down in your heart you know what you are doing is not in accord with what God has said in His Word. Can God work good in spite of you doing something wrong? Absolutely! However, God does not condone you committing a sin. He forbids sinning.

St. Paul struggled with his sinful Old Adam as he exclaimed in deep frustration, "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"(Romans 7:18-19, 24) He recognized that his sins were not good and God would not bless them.

Willful, intentional sinning that you do and your attempt to justify them, especially when you believe that doing them is not serious because, in the end, God will forgive your sins is not acceptable to God. There is no such thing as pre-meditated sorrow over sin. (committing sins with the thought that it really doesn't matter that you sin because in the end God will forgive them.)

You as a Christian are not to do evil, commit intentional sins, or willfully disobey God with the thought that God will find a way to work good in spite of your sins. God does not wink at sins. He does not bless sins! He does long to for His law to make you conscious of your sins, bring you to confess them, repent and seek His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I, a poor miserable sinner confess all my sins, I am sorry for them and plead with you to forgive me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.
(LSB 606)