

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

AN HONORABLE LIFE

Romans 1:18 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

The words of today's devotional verse are dramatically different from God's word through the pen of St. Paul in verses 17 and 18. While these previous two verses tell of the God's good news of salvation, His righteousness and faithfulness, today's verse tells us of God's wrath, indignation, and anger in reaction to the godlessness and wickedness of humanity.

He who is righteous demands the same of His chief creation, we human beings, as Jesus taught in His sermon on the mount, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) God, who is holy, expects those who come into His presence to be holy as well. (1 Peter 1:16) He will not tolerate godlessness and wickedness.

Michael Middendorf in his commentary on Romans states the word godless is a ". . .powerful, derogatory word which depicts an absolute rejection of the existence of God with a correspondingly dishonorable lifestyle (wickedness.)" This dishonorable lifestyle or wickedness as the word is translated in your Bible includes being unjust, doing what is wrong, and committing crimes.

How is it that we human beings become godless and wicked? Paul writes, "by suppressing the truth." (Romans 1:18) This reveals to us and explains clearly why there is so much wickedness in the world today. The world in growing numbers rejects God and the truth of His word. The world attacks God's word and substitutes its truth in replacement for God's. The result is wickedness, chaos, evil of all kinds and the like.

God is not the source of godlessness and wickedness. He is the source of righteousness and truth. His word is truth. (John 17:17) His word is a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." (Psalm 119:105) His gospel is His power for our salvation. The Holy Spirit, working through the gospel, changes your heart

from godlessness and wickedness filling it with righteousness and truth. He leads you to an honorable life.

Prayer: Forgive me Father for my dishonorable thoughts, words, and deeds through the shed blood of Your Son. Dear Jesus, lead me to the path of righteousness for Your name's sake. To You be the glory and honor forever! Amen.

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandr'ing from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lorde, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.
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