

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

### **A FOOL SAYS THERE IS NO GOD**

Romans 1:21-23 "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles."

Michael Middendorf, in his commentary on the book of Romans, states "People without the revealed word of God (Bible) are held accountable to respond to (their relationship with God's creation and thus with Him). . ." Thus, throughout the history of the world, every identified culture has had a belief in a god or gods of some kind, probably the majority focused on the worship of God's creation and power or as Paul states in Romans based upon that which is known about God through what God has written in their hearts or what they observe in the world around them.

As I stated in a previous devotion, over the existence of this earth, its human inhabitants have created literally thousands of gods. Mittendorf comments, "you could not have things made without there being some sort of maker. . . the specific qualities of His eternal power and divinity could not exist without His existence." Because of man's natural knowledge of God, man endeavors to, in some way, appease and persuade Him to provide for his life and well-being.

Idolatry is futile. The worship of gods created by human rational minds is foolishness. Think of the prophets of Baal mutilating their bodies, hoping their self-mutilation would cause him to send down fire from heaven to consume their sacrifice. On the other hand, the worship of Yahweh gives life and immortality. In answer to Elijah's prayer, Yahweh sent down fire from heaven to consume the wood, meat, stones, and water. Idols have no ears to hear prayers, minds to weigh them nor a heart to love. Yahweh knows all that is going on in your life. He hears your every thought and spoken word. His heart is filled with love for you desiring to provide for all you need to support your body and life. . .sending manna and quail from heaven.

Thanks be to God who gives you your victory over all things spiritual and temporal!

Prayer: O Lord, fill my heart with faith to believe and trust in You alone who are the only true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious  
ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need of grief Every has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade  
you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again, Gladly forever adore Him!  
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