

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

EXCHANGING THE TRUTH FOR A LIE

Romans 1:24-25 “Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

St. Paul, in today's devotional verses,” says that people exchanged “the truth about God for a lie. . .” This has been true throughout human history. Human beings in the past and currently have and are creating gods to conform with their way of thinking and living.

Jeremiah asks, “Do people make their own gods?” Jeremiah answers his own question, “Yes, but they are not gods!” (Jeremiah 16:20) Studying the history of idolatry there are common threads within the great diversity of false teachings and practices of sinful human beings. These “lies,” as St. Paul speaks of them, include the incorporation of rationalism, humanism, glorification of sexuality, worship of wealth, etc. To place faith in any or all of these is “futile and foolish.” (Romans 1:21)

The Holy Scriptures leave no doubt as to what the truth is, “We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” (Deuteronomy 6:4) For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.” (1 Corinthians 8:4-8) Ephesians 4:5-6 say there is, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

You live in a world that loudly calls to the Church to be relevant, contemporary, open to new ideas and practices. There is much emphasis on “out with the old and in with the new.” However, God's word says, “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6) As you read above in 1 Corinthians 8, “there is but one God” and there is but “one Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Prayer: Lord, keep us steadfast in hearing, reading, learning Your word that lone reveals the truth to us about You and Your unconditional love for us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
(LSB 507)