

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

HOSTILE TO GOD

Romans 8:7-8 "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."

According to recent polling, approximately half of Americans believe it is important to follow the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods." Luther, in his Catechism, explains the meaning of this commandment as, "We should fear, love and trust in God above all things." Since seventy-two percent of all Americans state they believe God is Triune, this would mean that close to twenty-five percent of those who believe in the Trinity do not believe it important to "fear, love and trust in God (the Triune God) above all things."

According to a PEW poll in 2019, the majority of Americans distrust the information they receive. This includes information from the Bible with less than 20% saying that what the Bible says is reliable. Rejection of what the Bible says is true shows a growing hostility toward God who is the source of what is found in the Bible. Rejection of His word is rejection of Him.

The word hostile is defined as antagonistic or opposed. Antagonistic is defined as "showing or feeling active opposition or hostility toward someone or something." According to polls the younger a person is in this country the more likely they are either opposed to, antagonistic toward, or simply no longer even care about God. Based on polls, they are most concerned with: becoming empathetic, developing intimacy skills, completing their personal set of values, believing themselves invincible and having a healthy image of their body.

St. Paul, in today's devotional verse says, living one's life as the younger population is doing is hostile to God. Further he says, living in this way they are not able to please God. What does this mean for you? Your flesh also entices, seduces, and tempts you to conform, contemporize, and pattern your life in the way those around you are living.

Jesus alone is "the way, truth and the life." He says, "No one can come to the Father except through Him." (John 14:6)

Prayer: Dear God, protect me from the modern world and my sinful flesh that I not be led astray from you but that I retain true faith in You and am confident You are my Father who loves me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be;
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more, the, I declare: What is the world to me!
(LSB 730)