

9. Essential Verses of This Present Evil World

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Today we live in a world devoid of God and His Word. Yes, there are Christian believers in this world, and yes, they want revival. But in spite of all that, society and the culture seem to continue to grow worse. At times we see the news reports that religion is making somewhat of a comeback, and religious freedom is being brought back. But, still, society continues to grow worse and evil seems to abound.

The best passage in the Bible about the sin in society is, I think, Romans chapter 1. It is the account of mankind's sin and failure; first right before the flood, and then at the tower of Babel. Please read the full passage, [Romans 1:18-32](#). I will not write it all out here, just a list of what happened.

1. The wrath of God is revealed.
2. Invisible things are seen
3. These people are without excuse.
4. These people knew God.
5. These people didn't glorify God as God.
6. These people were not thankful.
7. They became vain in their imaginations (*more on imaginations later).
8. Their hearts were darkened.
9. They became fools (they wrongly thought they were intelligent).
10. They worshipped images.
11. They changed (not "exchanged") the truth of God into a lie.
12. They worshipped the creature rather than the Creator.
13. Homosexuality was prevalent, men with men, women with women.
14. They were filled with unrighteousness; fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; they were full of

envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection (not speaking of homosexuality which was dealt with earlier), implacable, and unmerciful.

15. They knew the judgement of God. Quite a list, right? Doesn't it all sound like our society today?

God's Response...

From Romans chapter 1, look at God's response. Much like the "three strikes and you're out" from baseball games (these verses will be written out):

1. [Romans 1:24](#); *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:*

This is where it begins. God gave them up... God will never insist on anyone keeping His laws and ways. He gives freedom; however, the consequences can be heavy and disastrous. God says that if this is the lifestyle you have chosen, "have at it!" But you won't like how it ends.

2. [Romans 1:26-27](#); *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their list one*

toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

This is now the second time God has given people up, this time to “vile affections.” This is the next step down. The Scripture says in I Corinthians 6:18: *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication, sinneth against his own body.* A person guilty of this kind of sin might say that sin is sin, and we are redeemed and saved from all, but what does it mean to “sin against his own body?” Saved? Yes. But what about rewards?

3. Romans 1:28: *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

(Paul details those things which are “not convenient” in Ephesians 5:4: *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*) Now God gives them “over.” This seems to be different and is the final stage of God giving up on them. They have completed their move away from God. When God gave them “over,” I think it is referring to mental illness. These people are not “saved” as we think of “salvation.” They want nothing to do with God. That is the Biblical definition of “evil,” wanting nothing to do with God.

***Vain Imaginations...**

The words imagination, imaginations, and imagine are always associated with evil and negative references. Consider John Lennon’s song, “Imagine.” The song is not about anything positive concerning the

imagination. Think about the first words of this song by John Lennon. “Imagine there’s no Heaven...” This is nothing more than an acknowledgement that there certainly must be a heaven!

There are many occurrences of the word imagination in one form or another throughout the Bible, and they all have a negative context. We will only consider some of them.

- Genesis 6:5: *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
- Genesis 6:11-13: *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

The source of the violence of mankind was the imagination. God said that every imagination of the thoughts was evil continually. Remember the definition of “evil” that we are using; “anything that is opposed to God.”

- Genesis 8:21: *And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.*

God said this *after* the flood. Obviously, the flood didn’t change man’s nature. The imagination was still a problem and would

always be a problem. At this point, all mankind would be a descendant of Noah, who was a descendant of Adam.

[Climate change? See [Genesis 8:22](#).]

- [Genesis 11:6](#); *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

This verse is probably one of the most revealing verses in all of the Bible. Notice God's testimony of those who were building the tower of Babel. "Nothing will be restrained..." One of the "keys" also revealed was the fact that they were all one. This was true for communication. That is what God disrupted – the communication. It's clear, I think, that if people agree together to do something, they make it happen. This is how we went to the moon. People agreed that we should do this. Much of what is shown on the program "Star Trek" will be possible when people agree together. According to this passage, these things *will* be possible. I personally believe that God will end history *before* we are able to do many of these things.

Consider these verses from the book of Jeremiah about the imagination:

- [Jeremiah 3:17](#); *At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*
- [Jeremiah 7:24](#); *But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear; but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.*
- [Jeremiah 9:14](#); *But have walked after the imagination of their own heart,*

and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

- [Jeremiah 11:8](#); *Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not.*

And yet, even more Scriptures:

- [I Chronicles 28:9](#); *And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father; and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginings of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*
- [Proverbs 6:18 \(16-19\)](#); *An heart that deviseth wicked imaginings, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (This is from a listing of things God hates.)*
- [Zechariah 8:17](#); *And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.*
- [II Corinthians 10:5](#); *Casting down imaginings, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ:*

Imaginations are against the knowledge of God. We can defeat imaginations through the Word.

God's Programs... Failures?

1. God created everything, including man. But, things didn't go so well. Note this Scripture:

- Genesis 6:13; *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

When God created, He certainly didn't want to destroy everything; yet, that's how it ended.

2. Next, look at what happened *after* the flood at the Tower of Babel:

- Genesis 11:7-8; *Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

As pointed out earlier, the flood did not change man's nature. After the flood, it seemed that the objective was to defeat the purposes of God. Another failure?

3. What about God's people, the nation of Israel?

- II Kings 17:18; *Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.*

Please read the entire chapter for the sake of context. Again... another failure? That's Israel, the northern Kingdom. They went into captivity to Syria.

4. But what about Judah, the southern Kingdom?

- II Kings 21:12-15; *Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his*

ears shall tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem, the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

The rest, as they say, is history. These people went into captivity to Babylon, taken by Nebuchadnezzar. According to the prophecy in Jeremiah, this captivity was to last for 70 years. Is this a failure?

5. Israel was given one more chance to accept what God wanted to do with them. He sent them His Son, Jesus Christ to be their Messiah and King. But they rejected Him.

- John 1:11; *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

All four "gospels" are replete with examples showing how the Jews rejected Christ. Jesus Christ spoke often about the coming Kingdom that He would set up on the earth. Only those who believed in Him would be part of the Kingdom. Their final rejection of Christ's rule over them occurred in the book of Acts.

- Acts 7:51-53; *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the*

law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

Three times in the book of Acts, 13:46, 18:6, and 28:28, Paul said that he was turning to the Gentiles, because they would listen and would believe. Another failure?

But God promised that He would not give up on His covenant people, although they have been “set aside” temporarily. Notice this Scripture:

- Romans 11:25; *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

He will return them to their proper position on the earth.

6. How about the Church, the Body of Christ? What of our end?

- I Thessalonians 4:16-17; *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

This is the so-called “rapture” passage.¹ Please notice the words, “we which are alive and remain.” These don’t seem to be words of victory. Rather, they seem like words of defeat and failure.² So many believers are waiting of the so-called “rapture” of the Church, when there will be more suffering. Yes, we will be “raptured,” but not in the

¹ The word “rapture” is not a word that is in the text. It is translated from the Latin word, “rapturus,” a translation of the Greek words, translated in King James as “caught up.” “Rapture” is not a Bible word.

² This idea originally was stated by Tracy Plessinger, Grace Alive Ministries. I agree with this idea.

way that it is often presented. Just think of the following Scriptures when looking at the Church in the end times:

- I Timothy 4:1; *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

The ideas in this passage go all the way through to verse 5. The passage is directed to the Body of Christ. It is the Body that will depart from the truths of the Scriptures. The Body will fail in ultimately presenting the gospel.

- II Timothy 3:1; *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

This passage continues through verse 5. Again, this is a passage that is about the Body of Christ in the last days. This does not suggest victory, but defeat. Yes, we do look forward to God changing our bodies and taking us out of here, but not in the way that is often presented. When God does take us out, it will be time for Him to return to His people of Israel for the setting up of His Kingdom on the earth.

- II Timothy 4:16; *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

This is another sign of those “last days,” people will depart from the clear teachings of Paul the Apostle.

- I Timothy 4:1 (quoted above)
Believers will depart from the Word, and turn to other things to make them “feel good.” The last days of our culture will be a time of departure from God. Watch for this.