

A Life That Has Left God Out Of The Reckoning

There is one passage of scripture which clearly shows what happens when a person leaves God out of their reckoning in life's decisions.

It is not so much God sending a judgement on that person, as the person who brings a judgement on themselves.

When a person banishes God from their life they become a certain kind of person.

Romans 1:28-31 [King James] *“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; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:”*

To bring out the full meaning of this passage of scripture, we are going to study the fuller meaning of certain key words by expanding the Greek words that are the base of their English translation.

Reprobate – Greek word “*adōkimōs*” meaning unapproved, rejected by implication, worthless mind.

This is the end judgement that God has on the mind or thoughts that lead to action of the person who has rejected His existence.

The background to this inspired statement by God's apostle Paul to the Christians at Rome who were surrounded by visual reminders of false pagan gods.

This was a powerful reminder for these gentiles who had become Christian to avoid being influenced by the world around them.

Sad to say, all Christians need to be aware of this same warning today to avoid joining the people who are about to be described.

Convenient – Greek word “*kathēkō*” meaning a place or position that is reached, **in other words a place you do not want to find yourself in.**

Unrighteousness – Greek word “*adikia*.” **This is the opposite to “justice”** – includes all thoughts that are unjust, wrongful in character, life or act.

This person has erected an altar to themselves, the centre of all things that they worship, excluding other human beings and God, thus robbing other human beings and God of their rights.

Fornication – Greek word “*pōrnēia*” – this word covers all **illicit sexual acts including adultery, incest, homosexuality and lesbianism, [see verses 26-27].**

Metaphorically it refers to false doctrines and pagan idol worship by people who profess adherence to the Christian faith, [Revelation 14:8; Revelation 17:2, etc.]

Wickedness – Greek word “*poneria*” meaning depravity, malice, denotes worthlessness, **a person who wants to make everyone as bad as they are, a destructive badness.**

Covetousness – Greek word “*plēōnēxia*” meaning **avarice, desiring more to the extent of fraudulency, extortion and greed.** An aggressive vice, with complete disregard for the rights of others. This attitude of mind can operate in every sphere of life, material, ethical or moral. A desire that knows no law.

Maliciousness – Greek word “*kakia*” meaning depravity. **It describes the person who is destitute of every quality which would make them good.** A person whose life is moving towards being even worse. This is the forerunner of all other sins, the degeneracy out of which all sin grows and in which all sins flourish.

Envy – Greek word “*phthōnōs*” **to be jealous of in a spiteful way,** the pleasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or the prosperity of others, this evil sense is always attached to this word.

Murder – Greek word “*phōnōs.*” It needs to be remembered that Jesus Christ immeasurably widened the scope of this word.

Jesus Christ insisted that not only the deed of violence, but the spirit of anger and hatred, must be eliminated, [Matthew 5:21-22].

Only enough when even the desire to be angry is banished from our mind and spirit.

Matthew 5:21-22 [NIV] “*You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.*”

Jesus Christ did not do away with the law of God but expanded its meaning to include the intent behind our actions.

Humans only see the deed, but God sees the intention that is behind the deed and leads up to the deed.

Debate – Greek word “*ēris*” meaning quarrel, **contention, strife or variance.** The expression of enmity, borne out of envy, ambition, desire for prestige or prominence, **found in the mind in which there is jealousy.**

If a person is cleansed of jealousy [Philippians 2:3-4] then they are on the way to overcoming contention.

This is a God-given [Galatians 5:22-25] gift **to be able to take as much pleasure in the successes of others as one’s own.**

Deceit – Greek word “*dōlōs*” meaning a decoy, trick, snare subtly, the quality of **a person who has a tortuous and a twisted mind who cannot act in a straightforward way.** A person who uses devious and underhand methods to get their own way. A person who never does anything without some kind of ulterior motive.

Malignity – Greek word “*kakōēthēia*” meaning a bad manner or **character that tends to put the worst construction on everything.**

It may be that this is the commonest of all sins.

If there are two possible constructions to be put upon the action of any human being, this person will choose the worst.

It is terrifying to think of how many reputations have been murdered in gossip, when people maliciously put the wrong interpretation upon a completely innocent action.

When we are tempted to do this we ought to be remembering that God hears and remembers every word we speak.

Matthew 12:36-37 [New King James] *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Any malicious words we utter we will have to give account of on our day of judgement before Jesus Christ, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

Whisperers – Greek word “*psithuristēs*” meaning slanderer, secret distraction, **whispering malicious stories in a listener’s ear.**

Backbiters – Greek word “*katalalōs*” meaning **talkative against**, to speak against “*kata*” against “*laleo*” to speak.

This describes a person who trumpets their slanders abroad. Quite openly making accusations.

Both of these people are bad, but whisperers are worst.

A person can defend themselves against an open slander, but they are helpless against a secret whisperer who delights in destroying reputations.

Haters of God – Greek word “*thēōsēbēs*” meaning **impious, to consider the thought of there being a God as odious.** To such a person God is a barrier between them and their pleasures. God is a chain which keeps them from doing exactly as they like.

Such a person would gladly eliminate God if they could, hence the popularity of evolution.

[Please download and study the articles on this website under the subheading ‘*Evolution, The Delusion Of*’.]

Despiteful – Greek word “*hubristēs*” **to insult, connected with thinking themselves superior to the other person.**

It is the spirit of a person who is confident in their wealth, power and own strength who thinks they can live life alone.

It describes a person who is wantonly and sadistically cruel and insulting.

The spirit which hurts, harms or grieves someone else, not for the sake of revenge, not for any profit or advantage that may be gained, but simply for the sheer pleasure of hurting.

Such people delight in inflicting mental and physical pain on others.

Proud – Greek word “*hupērēphanōs*” meaning to appear to be above other people, **conspicuous, haughty.**

This word is used in **James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5** when God tells us that He resists such a person.

This could be considered “*the summit of all sins.*”

Such a person has a certain contempt for everyone except themselves, such a person delights to make others feel small.

Boasters – Greek word “*alalazō*” meaning a braggart, primarily signifies a wanderer about the country, a vagabond, hence an imposter. **People who boast about what they are trying to sell you as having excellence which it is far from possessing.**

This describes **those who promise to do what they really are unable to do.**

The idea is to impress other people, of their value or importance.

Inventors of evil things – Greek words “*ēphēurētēs*” meaning to discover, contrive or invent, and “*kakōs*” meaning worthless, depraved, injurious, wicked.

This describes a person who is not content with the ordinary, usual ways of sinning but seeks some new thrill in some new sin.

Disobedient to parents – Greek word “*apēithēs*” meaning unpersuadable, denoting obstinacy, rejection.

Both Jews and Romans set obedience to parents very high in the scale of virtues. It is one of the Ten Commandments that parents should be honoured. In the early days of the Roman Republic the “*patria potestas*,” the father’s power over his family, was absolute.

The real reason for including this sin in this passage is that once the bonds of the family are loosened, wholesale degeneracy will follow.

Without understanding – Greek word “*asunētōs*” meaning foolish, unintelligent, **lacking discernment.** This describes a person who is a fool, because they **do not learn the lesson of experience**, a person who will **not** make full use of the mind that God has given them.

Covenant breakers – Greek word “*asunthētōs*” meaning those who **refuse to abide by promises made**, those who are faithless, treacherous.

By using this word Paul was recalling the early Roman as well as the Christian ethic. This also refers to people who cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant or agreement.

Without natural affections – Greek word “*astōrgōs*” meaning **to be hard-hearted towards kindred.**

“*Stōrgōs*” was the Greek word **especially used for the love between parents and children.** Paul and **the Romans were living in an age when family love was dying.** Never was the actual life of a new-born child so precarious, **children were considered a misfortune.** Natural bonds of human affection had been destroyed in the Roman Republic.

Too often today child-rearing takes second place to a career!

Implacable – Greek word “*aspōndōs*” meaning without libation that accompanies the making of treaties or contracts. **A person who cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant.** It also refers to a truce-breaker, **for example as a marriage covenant!**

This same attitude of mind is shown today by so many couples living together **without** the bond of a marriage covenant. This attitude of mind is among these other sins of people who do **not** have God in their lives.

Unmerciful – Greek word “*anēlēēmōn*” when Paul was writing this, **life in the Roman Republic was cheap.** **A slave could be tortured or killed by their master,** the gladiatorial games were where people found their delight in seeing men kill each other.

It was an age when the quality of mercy was gone.

Today we find this same attitude is creeping back into society and in some areas has already gone, **when people are murdered for religious and political reasons.**

Romans 1:32 [King James] *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*

Paul says one last thing about people who have banished God from life.

It usually happens that, even if a person is a sinner, they know it, and even if they allow it in themselves, they know it is to be condemned in others.

But in Paul’s day, as today, people have reached such a level that they sin themselves and approve it in others who likewise sin, but even have deliberately encouraged others to sin.

This terrible picture of what happens when people leave God out of their lives is true of every generation.

Please do **not** pass over this rather corrective article thinking that none of it applies to you.

That may be a very big mistake to make that will affect your hope of eternal life.

Romans 3:23 [New King James] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

When God’s word says **“all”** it really means all.

1 John 1:8-10 [New King James] *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

This is the **only** way we can avoid having to pay the penalty of the sins we have committed, [**Romans 6:23**] eternal death.