

## “Mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned”

Romans 16:17-20

<sup>17</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them.

<sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent.

<sup>19</sup> For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I rejoice therefore over you: but I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple unto that which is evil.

<sup>20</sup> And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ASV

Looking at the book of Romans Paul wrote to the church, we see he dealt with many issues concerning the early church. Right after the victory Messiah achieved for us, satan wasted no time in causing confusion and error. Jesus called him a liar and a murderer from the beginning.

John 8:44-45

<sup>44</sup> You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

<sup>45</sup> Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

NIV

There is an interesting contrast here. Jesus is the Truth, the Way and the Life. Each term here has a specific meaning to the Jewish people and they understood what these terms meant in their society. They also carry the same meaning as well in our modern English besides being designated areas/entrances that lead to the Holy of Holies (The Life) within the temple or tabernacle within the Jewish worship system.

Jesus calls satan (accuser) a liar and this is his appropriate title. And as we know right after the fall of man there is murder right within the very first family.

We have the Truth dwelling within us once we accept the sacrifice of the Cross for ourselves and this is nothing to be ashamed of. While the world follows lost causes and satan's folly, we have the word of truth leading us into righteousness and to eternal life.

Rom 1:16-23

<sup>16</sup> For I am not <sup>A</sup>ashamed of the gospel, for <sup>B</sup>it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the <sup>C</sup>Jew first and also to <sup>D</sup>the Greek.

<sup>17</sup> For in it <sup>A</sup>the righteousness of God is revealed <sup>1</sup>from faith to faith; as it is written, "<sup>2B</sup>**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**"

<sup>18</sup> For <sup>A</sup>the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who <sup>B</sup>suppress the truth <sup>1</sup>in unrighteousness,

<sup>19</sup> because <sup>A</sup>that which is known about God is evident <sup>1</sup>within them; for God made it evident to them.

<sup>20</sup> For <sup>A</sup>since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, <sup>B</sup>being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not <sup>1</sup>honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became <sup>A</sup>futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup> <sup>A</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and <sup>A</sup>exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and <sup>1</sup>crawling creatures.

NASU

It is impossible to deny God's existence. There have been many attempts since the 'fall' to deny God's existence or to create a false one that is pertinent only to specific cultures. As if a person can place the God of the universe into a jar and label it, put it on a shelf or in a closet and store it away out of sight and then live their life according to what they desire and not by God's design. There is an eternal penalty for this and God has revealed His mercy through His son Jesus the Messiah.

This is the foolishness of man. This is wide spread in our culture today in various forms. Regardless of the 'form,' the denial of the true God of the Bible, people cannot have a God who will judge them based on His word and His standard of morality. So, we create a God in our estimation of who or what God should be and we wind up with a god that does not exist anywhere except in our modern media in television, news articles, universities, and magazines and unfortunately even in so called Christian institutions.

This is totally unnecessary since God is much greater and better than what mankind could create in his imagination and folly. But we deny Him due to what we believe is important to our happiness or what seems fair to us.

I was on the other side of this fence myself at a time in my life. I knew there was a God, I denied who He was and went along with popular philosophical ideas about Him, and I did not want anything to do with a God who would take away what seemed to be my pleasures.

But what seems pleasurable is so due to the fallen nature of our bodies and this fallen world. This world is not what God had in mind at the creation.

It is true that God's existence is most evident in our created world and universe. But look at the lengths man's vanity has reached by attributing the complexity, beauty, and [unparalleled privilege](#) our planet to mere random chances (Darwinian evolution). So we have university professors and researchers believing in Darwinian evolution while there is no proof outside of faked transitional forms.

If you are scratching your head at this point and saying I know macro (Darwinian) evolution is true because you teach or were taught it in school, you should know people want to control what you believe when it comes to origins. We, anyone who has a formal education, have been indoctrinated into having a specific world view. If you do not think so, ask yourself and your professor, if they know, why the contradictions to Darwinian theories aren't ever taught in length in any of the educational systems supported by tax dollars or the privately funded ones for that matter. Why are not the mistakes and the outright frauds not exposed for what they are and why do the museums have incorrectly depicted farces and outright elaborations as scientific fact, because we are not supposed to believe in God. This is imposed by specific religious people who have control over our educational system. They are called Human Secularist and they are recognized as a religion by the U.S. Government.

The sad point of all this discussion on origins is - if God did not make you or is much more distant than what we should think, it gives us an excuse to live in sin. If God did not create you why not eat, drink, and live for our own desires for tomorrow we die?

But we serve a [Risen Christ](#) (Messiah) who conquered death itself. This gives mankind the ability to enter [Heaven](#) through the indwelling of Jesus' Holy Spirit.

We cannot enter Heaven based on our good deeds and merits alone. If we were to rely on good deeds to get us to Heaven no one would ever make it. It takes God's Holy Spirit indwelling a person by their faith and belief in what Jesus has accomplished for them on the Cross. I thank God for this. I know I cannot be good enough to enter Heaven. I'm glad Jesus did all the work necessary. Now all I have to do is pick up my cross and follow Christ.

The other option is not open to me, and I hope if you have no idea of the miraculous love God has for you, that you take a leap of faith with both eyes open and [accept Christ](#) as your Lord and Savior.

Let's look at what the Apostle Paul states in chapter 3 of Romans:

Rom 3:8-18

<sup>8</sup> And why not *say* (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say),

"<sup>A</sup>Let us do evil that good may come"? <sup>1</sup>Their condemnation is just.

<sup>9</sup> What then? <sup>1A</sup>Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both <sup>B</sup>Jews and <sup>C</sup>Greeks are <sup>D</sup>all under sin;

<sup>10</sup> as it is written, "<sup>A</sup>*THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;*

<sup>11</sup> *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;*

<sup>12</sup> *ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*

<sup>13</sup> "<sup>A</sup>*THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"*

<sup>B</sup>*THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";*

<sup>14</sup> "<sup>A</sup>*WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";*

<sup>15</sup> "<sup>A</sup>*THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,*

<sup>16</sup> *DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,*

<sup>17</sup> *AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."*

<sup>18</sup> "<sup>A</sup>*THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."*

NASU

There were those in Paul's day saying let us do evil so we can receive more forgiveness, more grace and have a good standing with God. Note the words in uppercase in the New American Standard Bible – Updated edition (NASU).

Paul is quoting from the Old Testament here. You must note, you cannot continue in a life of sin and believe you have no problem with God and His Rule.

At our prayer and fasting meeting a discussion was held on whether one can lose their salvation. One cannot lose salvation. But if your salvation is for saving sinful pleasures than you may not be saved!

There is a transitional time when one must come to grips with what God and how God wants us to live if you have taken a step of faith or are thinking about it. I did not want to take this step myself as I have mentioned above due to what I deemed was my pleasure and my need. I did not want to let go of my sinful lifestyle. So, I did not take a step of faith. Eventually I did come to Christ and I knew that I knew God was real and the joy given by God to an individual has no equal anywhere on earth.

I had to let go of sinful passions and say yes to God's way and no to my own. I have no regrets. Especially when I know what the Bible says is true. I'm on my way to Heaven due to Christ's finish work on the Cross.

You are saved from sin and not to sin. This was one dividing factor in Paul's day and it is one in our modern day as well.

I hope I have given you Hope. I pray that anyone who does not know Christ will come to grips with the reality of who Christ is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is the only way to know God. You cannot say you know God without His Spirit indwelling you. And it is this indwelling of God that allows you to enter Heaven – His Kingdom come and His will be done. And His Will will be done on earth as it is in Heaven when He comes at His second coming to establish His kingdom on earth. That day is drawing closer.

To receive Jesus Christ as your lord and savior, say the prayer below or click on the link below for a more detailed prayer and to learn more about Christ (Messiah).

You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith through Prayer (Prayer is talking with God). God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Please send your Holy Spirit to live in me, guide me, and comfort me. Amen.*

*For a more detailed prayer, click on the link below.*

<http://Jesus-abc.com/php/heaven>

*To learn about Jesus and Prophecy, click on the link below.*

<http://Jesus-abc.com>