

Frightful Lists and Enumerations!

Romans 1:25-32

Paul closes Romans chapter 1 by giving a terrible list of over 20 sins (*verses 29-31*). Any honest person reading this would see himself included in at least some of these evils. For example, who among us has never disobeyed a parent or never been covetous or envious? Then comes the shocking conclusion that those who commit such sins (which would include every one of us), is worthy of the death penalty (*v.32*). Paul was skillfully building his case that all men are condemned before a holy God.

It would be a helpful exercise for the reader of this devotional to take some time to examine the following:

eight sins against love (*2 Cor. 12:20*);
eight descriptions of those going to Hell (*Rev. 21:8*);
seventeen works of the flesh (*Gal. 5:91-21*);
fourteen kinds of sinners (*1 Tim. 1:9-10*) and
nineteen wicked characteristics of men in the last days (*2 Tim. 3:2-5*).

God wants us to know, in great detail, what displeases Him and what things He hates. How we need to learn to hate what God hates! How we need to love our Saviour more and more for all that He has saved us from!

God never whitewashes or sugarcoats sin. He describes it with vivid details and lays it out before us in all its ugliness. How sobering to realize that though redeemed, we still possess a depraved nature, and are capable of committing any of these wicked acts.

Noah got drunk; Abraham lied; David committed adultery and saw to it that the husband died; Peter denied his Lord, etc. “There go I, but for the grace of God.” How greatly we need the fear of the Lord which is to *eschew* (avoid) and depart from evil (*Job 1:1; 28:28*)!

May we learn to boast and exult in the Cross of our Lord, where sin was ultimately defeated!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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