

## Regret

Contrary to popular belief, God regretted making mankind, you are not okay, I am not okay. In short, God regrets me and He regrets you. God is like a father and mother who gave birth to a child only to be tormented with the decision. For this reason, God flooded the earth the first time, to warn us all, that we fill Him with pain. When God looks at you and me, He grieves over us and what we have become. Indeed, the very fact we think we have done some good things, or are basically good people, even grieves God more because we are so blind to believe such a lie.

The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.” (Genesis 6:6-7)

Yes, God found favor with Noah, but not because he was a good person. Noah accepted God’s judgment as truth – that everyone in the world, including himself, deserved destruction. Noah’s acceptance of the truth of his worthlessness caused God to find favor with him.

## You’re Worthless

**Worthless:** a state of being whereby a person has no value. That is who and what we are. One of the greatest, most freeing joys is surrendering to the fact that I am worthless. If you want to know the joy of a poor self-esteem then you must accept the following passage.

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Romans 3:10-18)

Did you catch what God just said, we . . .

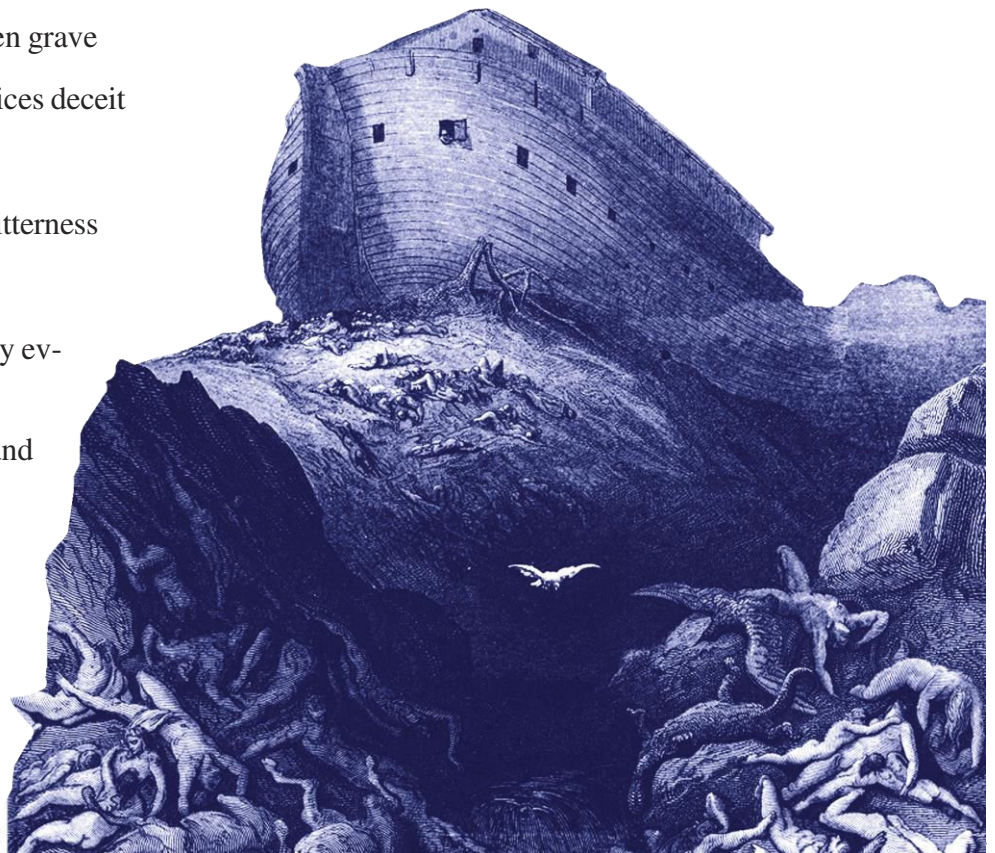
- . . . are unrighteous
- . . . lack understanding
- . . . do not seek God
- . . . have become worthless
- . . . cannot do good
- . . . have a throat like an open grave
- . . . have a tongue that practices deceit
- . . . have poisonous lips
- . . . are full of cursing and bitterness
- . . . quickly cause harm
- . . . have left ruin and misery everywhere
- . . . do not really understand the way of peace
- . . . do not fear God

Don’t even declare, “I am a child of the King and God knows I love Him!” God stated in Romans that no one seeks after Him. You are a child of the King because God in mercy saved you. God did not save you because you have value, but because He is love. This is true mercy—God saving us in spite of our worthlessness. To cover pride and arrogance with a false humility only brings a judgment more severe than an unbeliever faces. How much ruin and misery such “Christians” create in the church by this haughty attitude.

Jesus would not entrust Himself to any man because He knew what was in man, (John 2:24-25). The question for each of us is, do we know what is in us? If we did, we would not put any trust in ourselves either. We too would see there is no good in us to be trusted!

## Good Old Boys

“But he is so kind, gentle and understanding. A good person.” “They will make a good Christian



when they become a believer.” “God knows that in my heart I am a good person and strive to do the best I can.” Every heard or said such things? There are no good old boys in heaven, because no one is good. We only appear good to ourselves because we see with darkened sinful eyes. God tells us, let me repeat that, *God* says that the kindest thing the wicked, (you and I) do is detestable to Him. And if we had the heart of God, such good deeds would seem detestable to us as well.

. . . but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. (Proverbs 12:10b)

But the compassion of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10b NASB)

When an unbeliever or worldly “Christian” has compassion and shows kindness to someone else it is in reality an act of cruelty. For instance, every time someone is presented the offensive message of the cross and worldly “Christian” in the name of love smooth things over, they perform a cruel act, not a kindness.

In reality, selfish sinful pleasure and prideful ego motivate our good deeds, not honest love. There is no wisdom of really what is best for someone else, but only using our needs to enrich ourselves. As when a physician heals and receives a handsome payment for the service. Think of any cause, whether saving the planet or helping to feed the poor, without death to oneself the very act of compassion causes more harm than good.

More importantly, there is no one good, except God alone. You are not good. I am not good. Even Jesus declared He was not good. If you call Jesus good, He will rebuke you to your face.

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.” (Mark 10:18)

If God is the only one good then how dare we call ourselves good. In fact, it is blaspheme to declare that any man or woman is good. Does this offend your pride? Too bad— it is the truth, you are not good in any way, shape or form. Understand this clearly, God is the only source of good. And a man can only do good if he hates his own life. You can claim salvation until you turn blue in the face, but unless the cross crucifies you daily, you will not do anything good. Without a hatred of your life you remain as wicked as the atheist down the street. Indeed, more wicked, because unlike you, the atheist doesn’t claim to believe in God.

## Junk

“I am God’s creation—and He doesn’t make junk.” Sure, God doesn’t make junk, but that which was perfectly made, made itself a perfect piece of junk. As we saw in Romans, we cannot even love God. The only true Christians who can love God are those who love Him with the love He works in them. And the only people who can love God and others, with His pure love are those who fall to the ground and die.

If you, because of these facts hate your life, the very essence of who you are and what you want to do, those in hope. This is what it really means to be born again – you have to die so that God may give you a new person. If not, then don’t claim to be a Christian and go on about your merry way – for soon you will die and burn in hell for clinging to your self-righteous and self-centeredness.

The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25)

If, in humility and with a desire for righteousness, we see who we truly are then it becomes natural to hate our lives. We will hate the very core of who we are because we understand our corruption. We will hate our wills, desires, and actions because we feel convicted of our sinfulness and wickedness. The greater this hatred the more ready a man or woman will be for the mercy and grace of God. If you do not hate your own life you will not be ready for the following words spoken by Jesus.

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24)

Most people come to Jesus because they want something, not because they hate their very lives. Sure they hate aspects of their lives, but not their very selves. They want more peace, comfort, or a special blessing. They ask an impossible thing. They want God to bless wickedness. Those with noble hearts and a true faith come to Jesus and die to themselves. They come to Jesus and allow Him to crucify unto death their very selves.

Only those surrendered enough to God will allow themselves to be put to death in order to have eternal life. In other words, you are worthless and God does not seek to clean up something so hopelessly vile. God does what anyone would do with a worthless object, He throws it away, in hell or by crucifying it on the cross with Christ. God kills it by the cross of Christ. It is a painful process, (1 Peter 4:1),

but for those willing to endure the shame of the cross, a glorious resurrected life awaits them. This is why God gives us mercy now. So that instead of being judged and sent straight to hell as we deserve, God shows mercy so that the righteousness of Christ might be worked in us (Galatians 2:20). Those who cling to anything less than this, or to a sloppy easy salvation, are not saved at all. If you, as a Christian have not preached this with deep conviction, you haven't yet preached or lived the truth. We had all better learn quickly that not one good thing resides in us apart except Jesus in us.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. (Romans 7:18a)

Finally, this is no hopeless, depressing, joyless truth. Those who find it joyless are just too prideful to humble themselves. This is, as with all things in Christ, a matter full of hope, life and the deepest of joy (1 Peter 1:8). If you willingly repent of your good self-esteem; if you willingly repent of the lie that Jesus died for you because you have some value, then not only will you find mercy, but the power of the resurrected life. Pick up your daily cross and you will taste daily the resurrection. Find joy in saying I am not okay, you are not ok. Start by repenting of your vain thoughts that you are special. Without full acceptance of this fact you cannot press on in any good measure toward the salvation of Jesus Christ. God waits for you to come with repentance over this matter rather than perish in hell because you thought you and others were okay.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)