



A Lawless Heart and a Lawless Society

Romans 8:1-12

MAN as to his basic nature is lawless. He rebels against the rules of his Creator and refuses to submit: “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (*Rom. 8:7*). In our unsaved state we were slaves to uncleanness and to iniquity (lawlessness) unto iniquity (lawlessness)—(*Rom. 6:19*). The very essence of sin is lawlessness: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law (*lit.*—lawlessness)—(*1 John 3:4*). This was exemplified by the lawless citizens of Sodom (*2 Pet. 2:8*). The destiny of every lawless person is hell: “depart from Me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)—(*Matt. 7:23; 13:41*). Only God could rescue us from our lawless deeds.

The Saviour was put on the cross by wicked (lawless) hands (*Acts 2:23*), and was crucified with transgressors (lawless ones), one on each side (*Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37*). His substitutionary death made it possible for Him to “redeem us from all iniquity (lawlessness)—(*Tit. 2:14*). God’s gracious forgiveness means that He will never again remember our iniquities (lawless deeds)—(*Heb. 8:12; 10:17*), and we are now free to yield our members to God as servants to righteousness unto holiness (*Rom. 6:19*).

We now delight in the law of God which we once despised (*Rom. 7:22*). The mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) is working in our society even now, but how much more when the Restrainer (God the Holy Spirit in the Church) is removed (*2 Thess. 2:7*). Then iniquity (lawlessness) will greatly abound during the tribulation (*Matt. 24:12*) with little restraint holding it back. Finally the wicked one (lawless one), the Antichrist, will be revealed (*2 Thess. 2:8*). **Yet, take heart brethren; we have read our Bible, and we know that in the end the Lord Jesus wins** (*2 Thess. 2:8*)!



~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org