

# Down with the Statues!

*Romans 3:9-20*

In recent times we have witnessed the destruction and removal of statues representing famous men and notable American leaders. Often this demolition was carried out by an angry mob. Those who served as leaders in the Confederacy were prime targets, but even Abraham Lincoln and other friends of the slaves suffered the same treatment. Monuments were torn down, sometimes without much rhyme or reason.



Katherine Lee Bates, in her patriotic hymn, wrote, “God mend thine every flaw.” Even the greatest Americans are flawed by the possession of a wicked, Adamic sin nature. Not one is exempt. “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one....there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (*Rom. 3:10-12*). The closer we examine any life, the more character weaknesses we will find.

The greatest heroes of the faith were also flawed, sinful individuals. Noah got drunk. Abraham lied about his wife. Moses disobeyed God and struck the rock. Joshua failed to consult the Lord. David committed adultery and murder. Solomon permitted great idolatry. Peter denied the Lord, etc. How amazing that God used any of these men!

Let him that is without sin be the first to tear down a monument representing a great but sinful human. What would we find if we examined each of the lives of the lawless rioters? How well would they measure up to the standard of God’s glory and holiness (*Rom. 3:23*)?

If statues must only be erected of sinless individuals, then the Lord Jesus Christ would be the only One to qualify. However, since He is God, we must not honor Him with a graven image (*Exodus 20:4*). He alone deserves our worship, our kneeling, our love, our devotion, our respect, our obedience, our full surrender. May we learn what God can do through a sinful, yet yielded and set apart vessel (*Rom. 6:13*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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