

LEAVING GOD OUT

ROMANS 1:24-32

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Zodiates describes God's wrath as "utter abhorrence to sin but longing mixed with grief for those who live in it." Spiros Zodiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 1005 (309). Sin breaks the possibility of a relationship with God for those who live in it.

BRINGS JUDGMENT. All of us inherited a sin nature from our grandfather, Adam. Some sins seem to be more dominating than others, but we all have arrived in the world in this state. In Christ we have the power to avoid "caving in" to these sins. The person without Christ is given over to sin thus allowing that sin to bring God's judgment and wrath upon himself. (Romans 1:24-27, fn 1:24-32, fn 1:25, fn 1:26, 27[1st], fn 1:26, 27[2nd], I Corinthians 6:9-11, fn 6:9-11[1st], II Peter 3:8, 9, fn 3:8, 9, Romans 5:12-14, fn 5:12) *How does "leaving God out" enable you to cave in to sin?*

BRINGS SLAVERY. The love of sin brings slavery. Sin hardens the heart and blinds the mind. The exercise of sin increases sin and its practice is self-imposed slavery, rightly deserving and revealing God's wrath. (Romans 1:28-32, fn 1:32, Romans 1:18, fn 1:18 Romans 6:16, 20, 23, fn 6:23{1st}, II Corinthians 4:3, 4, fn 4:3, 4) *Why has God not allowed living in sin to free you of guilt and give you a sense of ultimate fulfillment?*

BRINGS GRACE! Grace trumps sin! No matter the sin or its depth, grace always trumps sin. When you place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, He by His grace delivers you from the slavery of sin and gives you His life and His righteousness. (Ephesians 2:3-9, fn 2:4, 5, Colossians 1:13, fn 1:13, Romans 5:15-21, fn 5:15-19, II Corinthians 5:17-21, fn 5:21) *How has grace triumphed in your life?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.