

## Haters of God

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by Wayne Goff

### **WHY WOULD ANYONE HATE GOD?**

Romans 1:30 includes in the vast list of moral depravities committed by men who rebel against God: “haters of God.” Why would anyone hate God?

Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon defines the word as “hateful to God, exceptionally impious and wicked” (p. 288). One is not born with such hate for God for Jesus taught us that we are to be “converted and become as little children” (Matt. 18:3). Therefore it must come from man’s ungodliness and unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). Sin does that to a man. Paul has already documented the moral demise of man early in time when man chose to do evil and as a result also chose to “not glorify Him as God” (Rom. 1:21). Once man rebels against God, his guilty soul cannot bear to know God, believe in God, much less to obey God! It is the downward spiral of sin.

Jesus explained this mental process as well when He said: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (Jn. 3:20-21).

From my observations of those leading America away from God over the last two or three decades, I would say that this is exactly the same thing. Men rebel against authority (government), then they begin to practice evil (sin), and then they want to legalize sin which requires them to throw off both governmental restraint and biblical knowledge. Hatred for God is the result.

The account of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4 points out the conflict between good and evil. Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. This made Cain angry. God spoke with Cain and asked him why he was angry. He said: “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it” (v. 7). Cain chose to offer a less than acceptable sacrifice and expected God’s praise in spite of it! Cain chose to be angry with Abel for making him look bad. Cain chose to kill his brother rather than correct his own mistakes. In Cain’s mind, it was all Abel’s fault! In God’s own words, sin desired to rule over Cain and he could have chosen to defeat it. But he did not.

God is hated because God is viewed as the Restrainer, the Inhibitor, the Forbidder. When God revealed Himself to Israel, He said that “...He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face” (Deut. 7:10). This does not humble the hater of God -- it infuriates him! And so the battle between Good and Evil will continue on until the end of time. (See also Deut. 32:41; Ps. 52:1; 81:15; versus Ps. 10:3-4; 14:1; 36:1; Mal. 3:14).

Of this phrase Albert Barnes wrote “There is no charge which can be brought against men more severe than this. It is the highest possible crime; yet it is a charge which the conduct of men will abundantly justify...” (Barnes’ Notes, “Romans,” pp. 45-46).

What is left to be said? You and I make choices and I shudder to think of those who have become haters of God. There are those who wish to be on neutral ground -- neither for God nor against Him. Unfortunately we do not live in a morally neutral world. We are either for God or against Him (Matt. 12:30). May you and I always respect and reverence God and learn to be on His side.

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