

**Monday, 16 October 2017** Romans 11:28-31

As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

"Irrevocable" What a precious and powerful word, amply demonstrated by His people. It is almost 2000 years since the destruction of the Temple of God and the elimination of His people as a nation. Yet Israel is rising from the ashes; God's covenant with Abram, Gen. 12:1-3 and Gen. 17:1-14 was irrevocable and is being demonstrated to us daily.

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**Tuesday, 17 October 2017** Romans 11:32-33

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Whenever I doubt the simple truth that all things work for my good, Rom. 8:23, I need to remind myself that I am a living proof; an irrefutable proof. The mercy that the LORD, God, the Almighty has poured out on me demonstrates daily that my disobedience has been answered by His grace and mercy.

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**Wednesday, 18 October 2017** Romans 13:11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This passage is one of great encouragement to me. To have Paul acknowledge that he is undergoing a process of transformation from one degree of glory into another helps me daily to keep to the task of putting on the Lord Jesus Christ and eliminating the desires of the flesh. Is this what he was going through in that three years in Arabia, Gal. 1:16-18? Is this the result of being caught up to that third heaven in 2 Cor. 12:2-3?

I occasionally hear testimonies from individuals who accepted the Lord as Master and Savior and were miraculously transformed into perfect saints, never to sin again. This passage pulls me back to my own task of casting off the works of darkness day by day.

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**Thursday, 19 October 2017** Romans 14:1-3

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

It is a fruitful exercise to review my life as a disciple of Jesus Christ if not just to remember John, the newborn Christian of almost 40 years ago. To have described me as weak in faith is an understatement; it has been a process best described as the Spirit pruning away the unproductive and replacing it with the wholesome, one twig at a time. Still, an unfinished project with much to be done.

I must never forget that the LORD has not called me to demonstrate my superior grasp of the intricacies of a religion but has called me to be a daily example of His grace, mercy, love, and patience as a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. When I do forget, I must seek His forgiveness through repentance and seek the forgiveness of the one whom I offended by my actions and words.

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**Friday, 20 October 2017** Romans 15:30-31

*I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,*

A request from Paul for prayer support as he prepared to return to Jerusalem to minister to the church there should remind me of the many who are called today to minister to saints in hostile conditions. Yes, those who go to deepest, darkest Africa or India or Iraq or..., but I must not forget brothers and sisters who labor among the lost, the least and the lonely of this country. Or those who put their livelihood on the line as they witness to the firmness of their determination to obey the Word of God.

I must not forget the 3500 children who were martyred yesterday and every day for the last 43 years as a sacrifice to the God of Choice.

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**Saturday, 21 October 2017** 1 Corinthians 1:21-23

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,*

The scribes and Pharisees had established a complex series of interpretations of the 10 Commandments and their Mosaic applications in Leviticus—all of which must be followed to the letter. The Greeks established schools of philosophy that attempted to answer all the question of life—all of which raised more questions.

The Answer is Christ crucified, the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Nothing to do with my adherence to a set of rules; not dependent upon my understanding of a school of philosophy; but upon my acceptance of a finished work. I immediately entered into a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Kingdom of God and the Spirit, the Helper, began the process of transforming me into Christ's image. I began to learn to live a life of faith/belief/trust/commitment/obedience to the LORD, God, the Almighty.

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**Lord's Day, 22 October 2017 Psalm 119:12**

Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

Continue to pour an understanding of Your statutes into my heart, through my mind, informing and shaping my conscience, transforming my heart to be like David's; one who sought You and was willing to cry out to You in repentance. May I be the same.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*October 16-22, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Titus 3:15b**

*Grace be with you all.*

A poignant prayer, Lord, that Your grace would pour down over the [congregation] and all associated with it. We pray that grace not only for us but for all with whom we contact. May the Spirit move through us in power to declare the grace, mercy, and peace of Your Kingdom to all.

We pray, not only for the aggregate ministry of the [congregation] but also for our individual ministries in the vineyards where you have planted us.  
*Amen*

*Creational Theology hint for the week--A Love Blessing*

*Bless my partner on this Earth, For we are two, yet one, /And You, O true God, are One in Three. /You who made both the Earth and the Moon, /Who created the sound of river water /And the never-ending sigh of the sea, /Who made the word in the book /And the flame of the candle, /Who made the song both of the wren and the whale, /The beauty of winter and summer, /And the joys of both night and day, /You who know that in difference is sweetness, /Yet in unity we find You. /Give joy to our senses, /On nights dear and tender, /Shine in our love, /For we are two, yet one, /O true God, who is One, yet Three. Anamchara Books. Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life (Kindle Locations 267-276). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.*