

Nothing Has Changed I

(Continued from page 1)

and revile not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the heavens shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter" (Eccl. 10:20)]. Think on the things that come from above: Jude, concerning the conduct of Michael the archangel, said, "Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude vs. 9).

Concerning the continued actions of leadership, history records the life of Augustus Caesar: "In his early career Augustus had proven himself able, adroit, unscrupulous, cold-blooded. He had shrunk from no cruelty and had been moved by no passion. But absolute power, which often drives small men to frenzy, warmed this cold, unlovely schemer into something akin to greatness" (Ancient History, pg. 406-409). Even though Augustus was strapped with these negative characteristics, it is also recorded, "With unlimited patience, skill, and efficiency, he overhauled every aspect of Roman life and brought durable peace and prosperity to the Greco-Roman world... Augustus also amended divorce laws to make them much stricter. Prior to this, divorce had been fairly free and easy. In addition, after Augustus' reforms, adultery became a civil crime instead of a personal crime under the Lex Julia de adulteriis coercendis. In other words, it became a crime against the state, which meant that the state (not just the husband) could take an adulterer to court if there was evidence of adultery" (Encyclopedia Britannica). Thus, Augustus did address some issues contributing to the moral decay of Rome.

However, two emperors later, it is said of Caligula, "This prince had been a promising youth, but, crazed by power, he became a capricious madman, with gleams of ferocious humor. "Would that the Romans had all one neck! he exclaimed, wishing that he might behead them all at one stroke. His deeds were a series of crimes and extravagant follies. The wild-beast fights of the amphitheater and the gladiatorial shows fascinated him strangely...After four years, he was murdered by his guard" (Ancient History, pg. 406-409).

In our next post? Consider the condition of the populous. Were they any better? Ross

The Psalmist Says

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of
scoffers.*

Psa. 1:1

Considering Salvation

- I. God's Salvation is Well Ordered:**
 - A. Isa. 5:4 – "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?"
 - B. Matt. 11:28-30 – Come unto me
- II. Mankind's Condition:**
 - A. Mankind was in dire straits:
 - 1. Gen. 1:27 – Made in God's image.
 - 2. Gen. 2:26-27 – Law given.
 - 3. Gen. 3:6 – Law violated.
 - 4. Rom. 5:12 – Death through sin.
 - 5. Heb. 9:27 – All die.
 - 6. Rom. 5:12 – Spiritual in nature.
 - B. Gen. 3:24 – Driven out of the garden.
 - 1. Driven out — "to drive out from a possession... **divorce** (Vine's).
 - 2. Jam. 4:4 – Friendship - adultery
 - 3. Exod. 23:37 – Violates the covenant.
 - C. Isa. 24:5 – The whole earth is guilty.
 - D. 2 Thess. 1:7-9 – An eternal driving out.
- III. God's Provisions for Mankind:**
 - A. Mankind's need to consider the eternal:
 - 1. Job 31:1-14 – What answer shall be given when God visits your life?
 - 2. Heb. 9:27 – Appointment with death
 - 3. 2 Cor. 5:10 – "each one may receive"
 - 4. Matt. 16:26-27 – "man be profited"
 - 5. Psa. 67:1 – Greatness of God.
 - B. Knowing our condition before God
 - 1. 2 Pet. 1:1-11 – Reality of knowing
 - 2. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 – Perseverance in adversity.
 - 3. Jn. 14:6 – Jesus is the only way.
 - 4. Jn. 3:36 – Requires obedience.
 - a. Jn. 15:1-14 – Vine & branches
 - b. Jn. 14:15 – If you love me.