

LENT DEVOTION

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A believer is the one who "condemns the world" (Hebrews 11:17) and does not succumb and operate as per the evil practices and systems of the world. For that righteous person living among them day after, is (and will be) a torment in his/her soul because of the lawless deeds that he/she sees and hears (2 Peter 2:8). However, a conscious effort, of course, is made by a believer with the help of the Holy Spirit to condemn the world because he/she lives with the assurance that "the Lord know the way of the righteous" (Psalm 1:6).

Do not get disappointed or discouraged when you, as a believer, look at and face the works of the evil (one) around you. As you walk through the valleys of your life God is with you and knows the way you are walking through (Psalm 23:4). The Lord has promised: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God" (Isaiah 43:2--3). Do not be afraid of the evil. The One who is with you and in you is greater than the 'one' who is in the world. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in Jesus Christ" (John 14:1). Because He has "overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The Evil one uses the evil desires of the flesh, the systems, and the people in the world to have his way. "But be assured of the fact that the way of the ungodly and the wicked shall perish" (Psalm 1:6). They may seem to succeed for a while but "they are like chaff which the wind drives away" (Psalm 1:4) and their end result will be death and destruction of wickedness. When there seems to be no way of escape, God has a way. That is what the cross is all about. When there seemed to be no way for man to live a life of righteousness, God provided the 'only way' through the death of His dear Son. Let us be assured of the fact that God has a way for you and for you alone in all your problems and pain caused by the evil around us.

On your part, as a believer, continue to "condemn the evil" and "do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you may obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life" (Romans 6:13). Do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, and do not even stand in the path of sinners and sit in the seat of the scornful. But continue to delight in the Word of God and meditate and live by it day and night. Because you are like a "tree planted by the rivers of water" always fruitful, productive, and useful to the Lord (Psalm 1:3).