> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
> *— 1 Corinthians 15:56*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: idols, law, sin

Interpretation:
This verse is part of chapter 15 of *Paul's* first letter to the Corinthians. In this letter, Paul writes about the resurrection *of Christ* and its implications for believers. In the previous verse, Paul states that *"sin is the cause of death."* In this verse, he explains how sin has power through *the Law*.

The sting of death

The term *"the sting of death"* refers to the idea that death has a painful power that is associated with the sensation of a sting or thorn piercing a person. In Jewish culture, death was seen as the punishment for sin, as a result of disobedience to God in Eden *(Genesis 2:17)*. Thus, Paul is alluding to the fact that death has power over humanity because of original sin.

The power of sin

Paul also emphasizes the power of sin through the Law. The Law refers to the commandments God gave to *Moses* in the Old Testament *(Exodus 20:1-17)*. These commandments include prohibitions such as *"You shall not kill"* and *"You shall not commit adultery."* Thus, the Law defines what is right and what is wrong, and when a person does not keep the Law, he sins.

The problem, however, is that the Law cannot save a person from sin. Instead, keeping the Law can lead to pride and arrogance, which opens the way for further sin. In other words, the power of sin lies in its ability to make a person feel righteous and therefore see no need to repent and receive God's grace.

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> Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: idols, gossip, greed, Kingdom, Salvation, sin

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 verses from a letter written by *the Apostle Paul* to the church in Corinth. In this letter, Paul covers a variety of topics and instructs the believers on how to live according to the principles of the gospel. In the verses in question, Paul warns the Corinthians of the consequences of a life filled with sin.

Sins mentioned

In this passage, Paul mentions ten specific sins that can prevent a person from inheriting *the Kingdom of God*.

1. *Fornicators*, which are those who engage in sexual relations outside of marriage.
2. *Idolaters*, which are those who worship gods other than the God of the Bible.
3. *Adulterers*, which are those who cheat on their partners.
4. *Effeminate*, which are those men who adopt behavior or attitudes considered feminine.
5. *Homosexuals*, which are those who engage in sexual relations with members of the same sex.
6. *Thieves*, those who take possession of what does not belong to them.
7. *Covetous people (misers)*, who love money excessively and will do anything to get it.
8. *Drunken people*, who abuse alcohol and lose control of their actions.
9. *Gossips*, those who speak ill of others without any basis.
10. *Predators (cheaters)*, those who deceive others for personal gain.

It is important to clarify, however, that this passage is not limited to the people mentioned in the list. We are all sinners, and there are areas in our lives where we can make mistakes. The purpose of this passage is not to condemn or single out certain groups of people, but rather to show the importance of living a righteous life and keeping God’s commandments. We must remember that the purpose of this passage is not to fan the flames of hatred or discrimination against certain groups of people.

Divine judgment

These verses remind us that as humans, we are responsible for our actions and must be accountable to God. Divine judgment is a reality, and as Christians, we must always be prepared for it. It is important to understand that our earthly life is temporary and that what we do in it has eternal consequences.

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> So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.”
> *— 1 Corinthians 8:4*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: idols, food

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *1 Corinthians 8:4* talks about the importance of discerning what is real and what is not when it comes to food sacrificed to pagan idols. In this text, *the Apostle Paul* reminds us that idols have no power in the world and that *there is only one true God*.

The first part of the verse specifically talks about food sacrificed to idols. In ancient cultures, it was believed that offering food to a god would appease him and thus gain his favor. This practice was called *“sacrificing to an idol.”* Paul tells us that as Christians, we must know that idols have no power and that these sacrifices are in vain.

Then the verse reminds us that there is only one true God. This statement is central to the Christian faith because it is based on the belief that God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and that He is present and actively involved in our lives. By asserting that there is only one God, Paul rejects the idea of ??the existence of many gods, which was common in ancient culture.

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> Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.
> — *1 John 5:21*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: idols, children

Interpretation:
Before we delve into the meaning of this verse, we must clarify what idols are. In ancient times, idols were sacred or divine objects used for worship. Today, while the practice of worshiping idols, such as statues of other religions, still exists, the concept has been expanded to include anything that can take the place of God in our lives.

In our modern society, there are many idols that can take the place of God in our lives. These can include money, work, technology, success, fame, and more. Anything that distances us from God becomes an idol.

The call to **"beware"** of idols implies the importance of obedience. As believers, we are obligated to submit to God and keep His commandments. *Believers must take this call seriously and always be prepared for something to take the place of God in their lives*.

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> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
> — *1 Timothy 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: idols, desires, evil, faith, greed, money

Interpretation:
The Bible verse in *1 Timothy 6:10* is an important reminder that the love of money can be the root of all evil. The desire to accumulate wealth and power can lead to greed and unethical decisions in life, which can lead to a loss of values ??and faith.

The Bible teaches us that money itself is not evil, but the love of it can become a hindrance to our relationship with God and the realization of our true happiness. It is easy to become caught up in prosperity and the accumulation of wealth in this world, but in the long run, this can bring more pain than satisfaction.

A fall from faith

When we focus on money and the accumulation of wealth, we lose sight of the purpose of our lives. We can stray from the inner values ??that are necessary to live a meaningful and successful life in our relationships with God and others. The Bible teaches us to find balance in our lives and not let the pursuit of wealth distract us from our faith.

Pain and consequences

The love of money can bring many negative consequences in our lives. Some people may fall into debt, greed and avarice, while others may succumb to the temptation of corruption and unethical behavior. These actions can have serious consequences, including legal problems, mental and emotional health issues, and loss of morality.

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> Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.
>
> *— 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*

Book: New Testament / 2 Thessalonians
Topics: idols, Second coming, end times

Interpretation:
In these verses, the Apostle *Paul* speaks of a man who opposes and rebels against everything called God or worshipped. This figure sits in the temple of God as God, posing as God.

The identity of this figure has been the subject of debate and speculation for centuries. Some interpret these verses as a prophecy of the Antichrist, while others believe that they refer to a secular or religious leader who considers himself a deity. However, the most important thing is to understand the spiritual meaning of this figure.

Apostasy and Its Danger

Apostasy is one of the greatest and most sinister threats to Christianity. It is a betrayal of faith *in Christ* , not only through the abandonment of Christian beliefs, but also through the denial of Christ or renunciation of Him. Moreover, the Apostle Paul warns in these verses of a great deception that is being prepared.

We must therefore always be vigilant and cautious about this danger, since apostasy can destroy a person's faith. We must be sure that *our faith in Christ is true, adequate, and durable*. We must take all necessary precautions to avoid apostasy and be prepared in case of deception.

A Call to Vigilance and Preparation

We must realize that apostasy can take many forms, from a complete denial of Christ to the rejection of small biblical teachings. For this reason, it is essential that Christians always be vigilant and prepared to defend their faith.

Moreover, this call to preparation applies not only to the manifestation of the man of sin, but to any present or future situation. In fact, the apostle Paul in *2 Timothy 2:15* exhorts us to *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."* Therefore, it is imperative for Christians to understand and do this. Let us apply biblical truth to our daily lives.

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> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
>
> *— Colossians 3:5*

Book: New Testament / Colossians
Topics: idols, conversion, desires, greed, materialism, sin

Interpretation:
The Bible verse from *Colossians 3:5*, which speaks about the importance of putting to death all earthly things in us, calls us to consider the need to leave behind those practices that are incompatible with living according to Christian principles.

What is earthly?

By earthly we could mean that which causes us to do things that are not beneficial to us or to the environment. That is, that which distances us from God and causes us to fall into temptations that lead us astray. This verse mentions some of the practices we may fall into, such as fornication, impurity, disordered passions, evil desires, and greed. It is important to remember that each of us is acutely aware of the practices that prevent us from living in harmony with the will of God.

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> It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.
> — *Deuteronomy 13:4*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: idols, awe, following, listening, serving

Interpretation:
God's commandments are clear and straightforward. Throughout the Bible, we find various verses calling us to follow His teachings and live by principles and values ??similar to His own. *Deuteronomy 13:4* calls us to follow the Lord, fear Him, and keep His commandments.

Follow God and fear Him

In today's world, most people have their own beliefs about religion. However, following God is more than just a religious affiliation; it is a relationship with Him and a willingness to follow His teachings, not follow our own desires and whims. Fearing God is not simply being afraid; it is respecting and honoring His authority and power. This is why this verse calls us to follow God and fear Him to stay on the right path and make wise decisions in life.

Keep His commandments and listen to His voice

God's commandments are a way of life, a guideline we follow in our daily lives. By following them, we ensure that we are doing the right thing, ensuring our own well-being and the well-being of others. It is also important to listen to His voice. The Bible is a powerful tool that allows us to hear and understand *God's Word*. This way, we can know what He expects of us at every moment of our lives.

Serve and be faithful to God

Serving God is a sign of gratitude and love for Him. It means a willingness to put His teachings into practice and help others do the same. We must understand that we are responsible for sharing God's message with others, guiding them on the true path of life. Faithfulness to God is also very important, because He is faithful and expects the same from us. We must have a close relationship with Him and trust that He always guides us and cares for us.

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> Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.
>
> *— Deuteronomy 4:39*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: idols, God, heaven, world

Interpretation:
The Book of Deuteronomy is one of the most important books of the Old Testament. It contains the laws and history of the people of Israel, and also offers a series of reflections on the importance of obeying God and recognizing Him as the one true God. One such passage is found in chapter 4, verse 39.

Why is it important to acknowledge God as the only God?

Recognizing that God is the only true God is fundamental to our spiritual life. By acknowledging God's existence and power, we acknowledge that there is something beyond us. This can bring a sense of humility, the realization that we are not masters of the universe. Moreover, recognizing God as the only God can give us comfort and peace in difficult times, knowing that we are not alone and that there is a higher being guiding our destinies.

However, it is also important to acknowledge God as the only God because it encourages us to make wiser and more responsible decisions. Believing there are many gods we can worship can lead to complacency and complacency. But realizing there is only one true God encourages us to take our actions seriously, knowing there is a higher being who will judge our decisions.

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> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.
> *— Ephesians 5:11-12*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: idols, Fruitfulness, sin, speaking

Interpretation:
Ephesians 5:11-12 calls us to not participate in or engage in any actions or behaviors that are not pleasing to God, and instead to take steps to eradicate such behaviors.

What are unfruitful works of darkness?

"Unfruitful works of darkness" are all actions and behaviors that are contrary to God's commands. They are those actions that do not produce any good or positive fruit, but instead create chaos, pain, and suffering in our lives and the lives of others.

How can we rebuke unfruitful works of darkness?

Rebuking evil actions involves much more than simply turning away from them. It is important to point them out and confront them in order to help those who engage in them or to protect ourselves and others from their negative influence.

The most effective way to rebuke these actions is to live a life that is consistent with God's values ?? and commands. Moreover, whenever it is necessary to stand up for others and set the necessary limits to prevent harmful actions from occurring, this is of utmost importance.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.
> — *Ephesians 6:11*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: idols, devil, equipment, evil, protection

Interpretation:
Ephesians 6:11 is Paul’s call to the Christians in Ephesus to put on the whole armor of God and be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The devil is described in the Bible as a cunning and evil enemy who seeks to destroy believers and lead them into temptation. Therefore, it is important that we are prepared to meet his attacks, and the armor of God provides us with the necessary protection to resist.

Furthermore, putting on the whole armor of God enables us to live a life of victory and spiritual strength. It helps us walk in truth, be protected from injustice, reach out to others with the message of peace, maintain faith in times of trial, have hope for salvation, and be able to fight evil with the sword of the Spirit.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

Putting on the whole armor of God is a daily action that we must take. We must realize that the devil is always lurking, looking for an opportunity to cause us to fall. Therefore, it is important to read the Bible regularly, meditate *on God's Word*, and pray continually to strengthen our faith and our relationship with God.

It is also important to have spiritual friends and mentors who can guide us in times of doubt or difficulty. They can help us recognize the attacks of the enemy and find protection in the full armor of God.

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> Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.
>
> — *Exodus 20:23*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: idols, law, money

Interpretation:
This verse is part of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. God forbade the Israelites from making gods out of silver or gold to worship as if they were the true gods. *Instead, God commanded them to worship Him alone*.

The Bible repeatedly warns against idolatry. In the Old Testament, the Israelites often went astray and worshiped false gods instead of the true God. This not only angered God, but also led to the destruction of the nation of Israel at the hands of their enemies.

In the New Testament, the Apostle *Paul* warned Christians against idolatry, emphasizing that Christians should not worship false gods or put anything above God in their worship. As Christians, we are to be faithful to the true God and always trust in Him.

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> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
>
> — *Galatians 5:19-21*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: idols, anger, body, Kingdom, sexuality, sin

Interpretation:

In Galatians, the Apostle *Paul* lists actions that are considered works of the flesh and explicitly states that those who do such things will not inherit *the Kingdom of God*. It is important to distinguish between works of the flesh and sin. We all sin, but when we accept *Jesus as our Savior*, *the Holy Spirit* helps us overcome the temptation to sin. However, if we live by the works of the flesh, we cannot experience the blessings of God.

The acts of the flesh

Some of the works of the flesh mentioned in *Galatians 5:19-21* include adultery, fornication, impurity, and lust. Fornication involves having sexual relations outside of marriage, while adultery involves having sexual relations with someone other than your spouse. Impurity involves unclean thoughts, words, and actions, while lust is a strong sexual desire.

Idolatry and witchcraft are also mentioned, practices that involve worshiping false gods instead of the true God. Strife, contention, jealousy, anger, and dissension are attitudes that can cause great harm to any relationship. Dissension and heresy are divisions and lies that can weaken our faith.

Jealousy and murder are dangerous impulses that can cause physical and emotional harm to people, and drunkenness and orgies are forms of excess that can seriously affect our health. It is important to remember that these works of the flesh are contrary to the will of God. As we develop our relationship with God, His Spirit helps us to rid ourselves of them and live according to His will.

Therefore, in our lives we must strive to distance ourselves from these works of the flesh and strive to live in obedience to God. This includes, for example, giving up sexual immorality and pursuing purity and chastity, giving up idolatry in order to worship only the true God, and giving up anger and strife in order to seek peace and love.

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> But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.
>
> *— Hosea 13:4*

Book: Old Testament / Hosea
Topics: idols, God, Savior

Interpretation:

The selected verse speaks of the exclusivity of God as the only true deity and savior of the people of Israel. This is one of the main biblical teachings that is repeated throughout the Old and New Testaments: *the need to worship and trust only the true God*.

God as the only savior

The text clearly indicates that there is no other savior except God. This means that despite the difficulties and adversities that we face in our lives, we can only count on divine help and protection to overcome them and emerge victorious.

In many cases, we try to look for earthly solutions that will give us answers to our problems, but we must remember that only God has the power and ability to act effectively in our lives. He is our only savior, the one who delivers us from the yoke of sin and grants us eternal life.

Exclusivity of Worshiping God

This verse also clarifies the importance of worshiping God as the only true deity. In a culture that encourages religious diversity and tolerance of different beliefs, this teaching may be difficult to accept for those who do not share the Christian faith.

However, for believers in *Jesus Christ*, there is no choice but to *worship God exclusively*. This does not mean promoting hatred or intolerance toward other religious groups, but rather maintaining a strong and consistent position in accordance with biblical principles.

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> “No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.
>
> *— Isaiah 54:17*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: idols, judgment, protection, righteousness

Interpretation:

Isaiah 54:17 is a powerful reminder that our God is always with us and protects us from all harm. This passage assures us that if we are faithful to God, no weapon formed against us will prosper, and we will rebuke every tongue that rises against us in judgment. This means that God will always be on our side and will protect us from those who seek to harm us.

The importance of trusting God's promises

It's easy to be skeptical when it comes to promises, especially when they are the result of faith. However, *Isaiah 54:17* shows us the importance of trusting God's promises. God's voice through *Isaiah* assures us that if we follow God's commandments, nothing will harm us, and every tongue that rises against us will be punished.

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> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.
>
> *— John 17:15*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: idols, devil, evil, Mediator, safety, world

Interpretation:
John 17 is known as the Farewell Prayer, and in *verse 15 Jesus* asks *His Father* to keep His followers safe. This prayer shows Jesus' concern for His disciples and His desire to protect them from the dangers of the world.

What does it mean to "take them out of the world"?

In this verse, Jesus is not asking for the believers to be physically removed from the world. In fact, He wants them to live in the world, but not to be of the world. This is a crucial distinction.

Believers must be willing to live in the world and preach the gospel despite the dangers and difficulties. Jesus knew that His followers would face temptation and persecution, but He prays that they would remain faithful no matter what.

What does it mean to "protect them from the evil one"?

The evil that Jesus is speaking of here is not only sin, but also the snares and wiles of the devil that seek to turn believers away from faith in Christ. So Jesus asks the Father to protect them and keep them spiritually strong so that they can fight temptations and remain firm in their faith.

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> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
> *— Joshua 24:15*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: idols, family, following, serving

Interpretation:
The Book of Joshua is one of the historical books of the Old Testament. It recounts how *Joshua, as Moses'* successor, led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and won a victory at Jericho.

In chapter 24, Joshua addresses the people of Israel before his death, reminding them how God led them out of Egyptian slavery, through the desert, and into the land of Canaan. He challenges them: if they do not wish to serve the Lord, they can choose which gods to serve.

Biblical context

At that time, people in Canaan worshiped many gods and goddesses. The Amorites worshiped Molech, and their religious rites included the sacrifice of children and adults. Throughout the Old Testament, God condemns these rites and demands that they worship only Him. Joshua knew the people of Israel were easily tempted by these popular religious practices and wanted to ensure they chose God above all else.

Relevance today

Today, many people still struggle with the temptation to worship other gods instead of the God of the Bible. Some may choose the pursuit of money, success, or fame over serving the Lord. Others may be tempted to follow popular religious practices that are not in line with *God's Word*. However, as

believers, we must remember that there is only one true God, and He deserves our devotion and worship.

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> “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”
> — *Joshua 24:23*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: idols, heart, purification

Interpretation:
Joshua 24:23 calls the Israelites to turn away from foreign gods and worship the God of Israel. This verse is important because it represents a critical moment in Israel's history. God's people were faced with a choice: continue to worship false gods or repent and return to God.

Historical context

To better understand the meaning of *Joshua 24:23*, it is important to understand the historical context in which it was written. *Joshua, Moses'* successor, led the Israelites to conquer the Promised Land.

However, along the way, God's people lost their way and began to worship other gods. Joshua gathered the people of Israel at Shechem to renew their devotion to God and unite as a nation under his leadership.

The problem of other gods

The worship of other gods was a serious problem in the society of that time. False gods often promised wealth and prosperity, but in reality, they led only to moral and spiritual destruction. The Israelites needed to recognize the gravity of their sin and turn away from these false gods.

In the verse, *"throw away the foreign gods that are among you,"* Joshua calls the people of Israel to radical changes in their lives. He reminds them that worshiping other gods is an act of unfaithfulness not only to God but also to their own people. By turning away from false gods, they reunite in faith in the one God.

Turn our hearts to God

Besides turning away from foreign gods, Joshua also calls us to *"yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."* This part of the verse means that we must turn to God with all our being and renew our faith in Him.

It is interesting to note how Joshua calls the Israelites to incline their hearts to the God of Israel. This call is much deeper than it seems. Jesus Navin calls the people to an emotional and spiritual connection with God. He calls them to devote themselves entirely to God and embrace His plan for the people of Israel.

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> Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.
>
> *— Psalm 20:7*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: idols, trust

Interpretation:
Psalm 20:7 tells us how much we value material resources compared to trusting God. This verse refers to those who rely on chariots and horses, which are material resources that can help them succeed in various situations in life.

Teaching from this verse

Psalm 20:7 teaches us that we should not rely on material resources, but rather we should place our trust in God. If we rely solely on material resources, we limit our faith to what we see rather than what we feel in our hearts. In contrast, if we place our trust in God, our faith will be strengthened because we know that God is with us and will never abandon us.

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> Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
> — *Psalm 34:14*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: idols, evil, goodness, peace

Interpretation:
Psalm 34:14 teaches us a valuable lesson about how to live. This verse encourages us to avoid evil and instead do good. We are also commanded to seek and pursue peace. This is an important biblical instruction that can help us become better people and please God.

Turn from evil and do good

Some wonder what is meant by the word "evil." Evil can be anything that displeases God, such as lying, stealing, malice, revenge, and hatred. By following this path, we distance ourselves from God and the peace found in Him. Therefore, it is important to turn away from evil and instead pursue good in every situation in life.

Seek peace and pursue it

The second part of the verse tells us that we should seek and pursue peace. Peace is a term that denotes tranquility, harmony, and inner happiness. Pursuing peace means acting in ways that bring these qualities into our lives and pursuing them when we find them. Life will always have difficulties and problems, but those who seek peace approach them calmly and thoughtfully.

By following the advice in this verse, we can improve our lives and our relationship with God. By engaging in right actions and thoughts, we can live a more meaningful and fulfilling life. A positive attitude toward others and a desire for peace can also have a positive impact on those with whom we interact.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women

> exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.
> — *Romans 1:25-28*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: idols, desires, sexuality

Interpretation:
The Bible text *Romans 1:25* shows us that mankind has failed to give honor and worship to the Creator. Instead of honoring the Almighty God as He deserves, people have transferred their worship to useless objects and even to themselves, forgetting about the Creator, who is the source of all truth and life.

Honoring and worshipping creatures

In this verse, the word *“created”* refers to any created being, including people, animals, plants, and inanimate objects. Sometimes people focus all their attention on creation and forget that it is the Creator who deserves our worship and attention.

Idolatry is the sin that occurs when we worship any created thing more than the Creator, and it is something that God condemns in His Word.

God’s truth

God’s truth, as opposed to lies, is the source of all wisdom and knowledge, so we should seek it and live by it. The Bible teaches us that only God is true and only in Him will we find the fullness of life and truth. The truth of God must be the center of our lives, for only there will we find the peace and purpose we seek.

Shameful passions

Romans 1:26 notes that God has given men and women over to shameful passions that they have chosen, and that these passions are contrary to nature, which the Bible defines as what is natural according to the creation and will of God.

In *verse 27 of Romans 1, Paul* is talking about relationships between people and how this is considered sin. The word *“lust”* means *“excessive and strong sexual desire or appetite,”* and this is what Paul is referring to here. From this text, we can understand that homosexuality, according to the Christian view, is considered sin.

In this verse, Paul also talks about *“the wages of their error.”* This means that those who commit homosexual acts receive punishment as a consequence of their sin. Christians believe that the punishment will be given by God and may include eternal separation from Him if the person does not repent and ask for forgiveness.

It is important to remember God

Romans 1:28 tells us about the importance of keeping God at the center of our lives because if we do not, we can fall into a corrupt mind that will cause us to commit unworthy acts. In other words, when we do not take God into account, our decisions and actions can lead us down the wrong path.

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> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
> — *Romans 12:21*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: idols, evil, goodness, overcoming

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Romans 12:21* encourages us not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome it with good. In the society we live in today, evil seems to be constantly increasing.

There are a significant number of people who have negative attitudes towards others. This can lead to hatred, discrimination, crime, violence, and other negative things.

Fighting evil

This verse warns us that evil will always be present in our lives and encourages us to find ways to resist and overcome these daily temptations. One of the main keys to defeating evil is to resist the temptation to give in to evil.

Temptation is a powerful force, but it does not have to control our actions. By embracing virtue, *love, honesty, and humility*, we can overcome evil and achieve inner peace.

In this sense, *Romans 12:21* also teaches us the importance of not giving in to revenge. When someone treats us unfairly or says something that hurts us, our first reaction is usually to hurt them back. But this only increases the evil in the world and does not lead us to victory.

Instead, *Romans 12:21* encourages us to show love and kindness to those who have hurt us, and to learn to forgive and let go of offenses. Evil always seeks revenge, but we should seek reconciliation and peace.

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