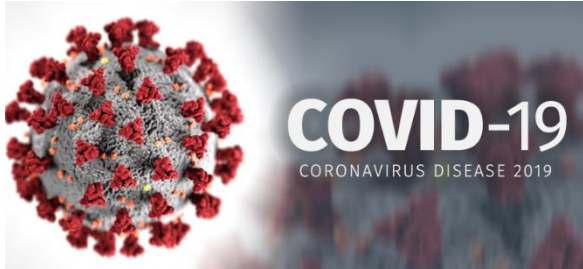


**To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas  
July 18, 2021**

**Romans 12 Part Two – Romans 12:3  
You Are Nothing**



The wrath of God continues. The tools that the Lord has at His disposal to show his wrath and displeasure are innumerable. The Coronavirus global pandemic continues. Globally there have been more than 187,000,000 cases and 4,000,000 deaths. In the U.S. there have been 34,000,000

cases and almost 610,000 deaths. The Delta variant continues to spread.

On June 24, 2021, at 1:30 a.m., a 12-story, high-rise, ocean-front condo tower in Surfside, Florida collapsed. The building pancaked. This was not a dilapidated, low-income, public housing unit. This was a plush, upscale condo tower aimed at retirees. A unit earlier this year sold for nearly \$3,000,000. 150+ people were killed. The cup of their iniquity reached the point of spilling over.

Then there is the “historic heat wave.” It gets hot in the summer, right? True, but not like this they say. When have you heard of Portland Oregon hitting 115 degrees? A lot of people in Oregon do not have air conditioning. Last week Death Valley hit 130 degrees, just 4 degrees short of the all-time hottest temperature on earth, which was 134 degrees recorded in 1913. But, some scientists dispute the 1913 temperature. Then you have the drought problem. 41 of California’s 58 counties are under a drought emergency. California’s water system is under extreme pressure. The Governor is asking Californians to conserve water any way they can. The drought is also a severe problem for California’s agriculture industry. California produces one-third of all vegetables in the U.S. and two-thirds of all fruits and nuts in the U.S. Water shortages are a huge problem for these industries. That problem of course feeds another problem for California, devastating forest fires. In 2020, 4 million acres of California burned.

So, the obvious question is: **Do we see any change of behavior on the part of this *wicked, evil, faithless, perverse, adulterous, sinful, snake-like (serpents/vipers) generation* (Mat. 12:39, Mat. 16:4, Mat. 17:7, Mat. 23:23) to change it awful ways?** (That is what the Lord

Jesus Christ called His generation.) NO! Not one bit! It is Jeremiah 44 time. Jer. 44:7 *Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain; 8 In that ye provoke me unto wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye be gone to dwell, that ye might cut yourselves off, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth? 9 Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? 10 They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers. 11 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah. 12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach... 15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, 16 As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, **we will not hearken unto thee. 17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.***

We should not be surprised when we see this same behavior toward our faithful warnings and preachments from the plain Word of God.

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Romans 12: 1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all*

*members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord [we are all servants here]; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

*3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*



“For I say” – Paul declares with authority this thing! He instructs each one of us to be circumspect in how we view ourselves. It is the time of the Summer Olympics right now. The Holy Spirit and Paul directly and indirectly references the Olympics several times in the New Testament. There is a whole industry in the world of sports regarding sports psychology, self-

talk and visualization among other things. It is a huge, multi-million-dollar industry – at all levels of sports. I was doing some research and came upon a person that is a licensed psychologist that specializes in sports psychology. You can swing a cat and hit a thousand such people. This person is the sport psychologist for the U.S. Curling team. I can

understand needing to stay within yourself if you are 24 miles into an Olympic Marathon and you are in oxygen debt and you are telling yourself you can get up a humongous hill. We have watched a lot of the U.S. Olympic trials, for track and women's gymnastics. I can see if you fall off the 4" balance beam that you might need to get refocused or if you are running the 800 on the track and there are 20 people around you and someone shoves you, or trips you... but curling? The goal of sports psychology is to optimize one's physical and mental health to improve athletic performance. They talk about mindfulness, Zen, reframing, meditation and focusing your mind. The Holy Spirit's strong advice and my own



**You are NOTHING**

humble and solid advice is that our self-talk, mindfulness and psychology should be to remember, at all times and in all places, that we are absolutely nothing. We are not to think of ourselves as anything other than disgusting worms in desperate need of our

Lord Jesus Christ. I remember one of my children leaving and in their departing letter they gave us the impression that they thought they were something. I was astounded – I felt I had utterly failed to tell them the truth. Why is it important to know and think on the fact that we are nothing? Why is it crucial in your development as a true child of God? It is because when we start thinking about ourselves as something, we start focusing on ourselves and our ego and our imagined self-righteousness and we stop thinking about God and His righteousness and our desperate need for the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Galatians 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.*

Man puts himself in God's shoes. If you question this, then you need to spend an 8-hour shift with the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. You need to read these books (166 chapters) back-to-back, and the Holy Spirit will it make perfectly clear to you exactly how the Israelites and the countries around them became puffed up and vain in their

imaginations and forgot God and sinned greatly and how He left them and punished them. Their success and pride were their downfall. We must always be aware of this and resist this urge. Here is a preview of those books:



**Ezekiel 28: 1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: 3**

**Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: 4 With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: 5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: 6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; 7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. 8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. 9 Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee. 10 Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.**

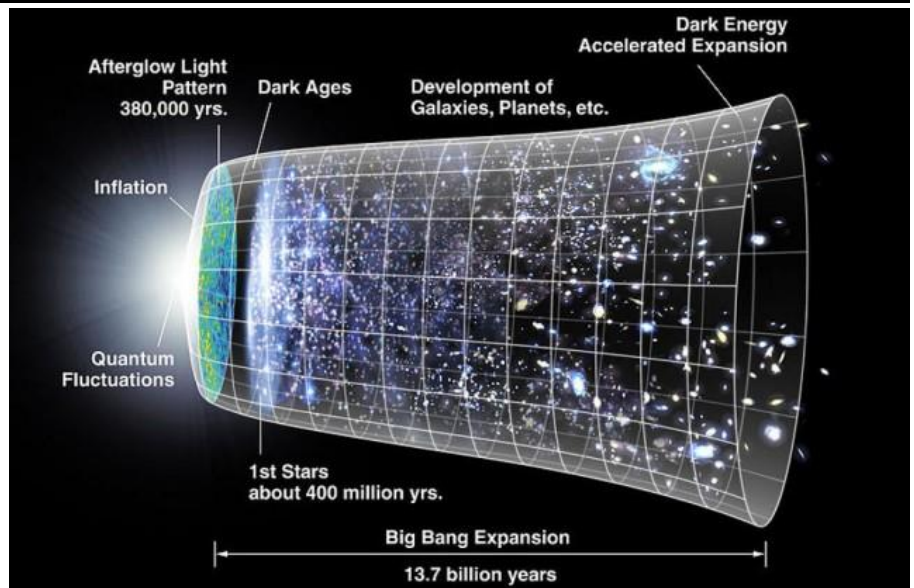
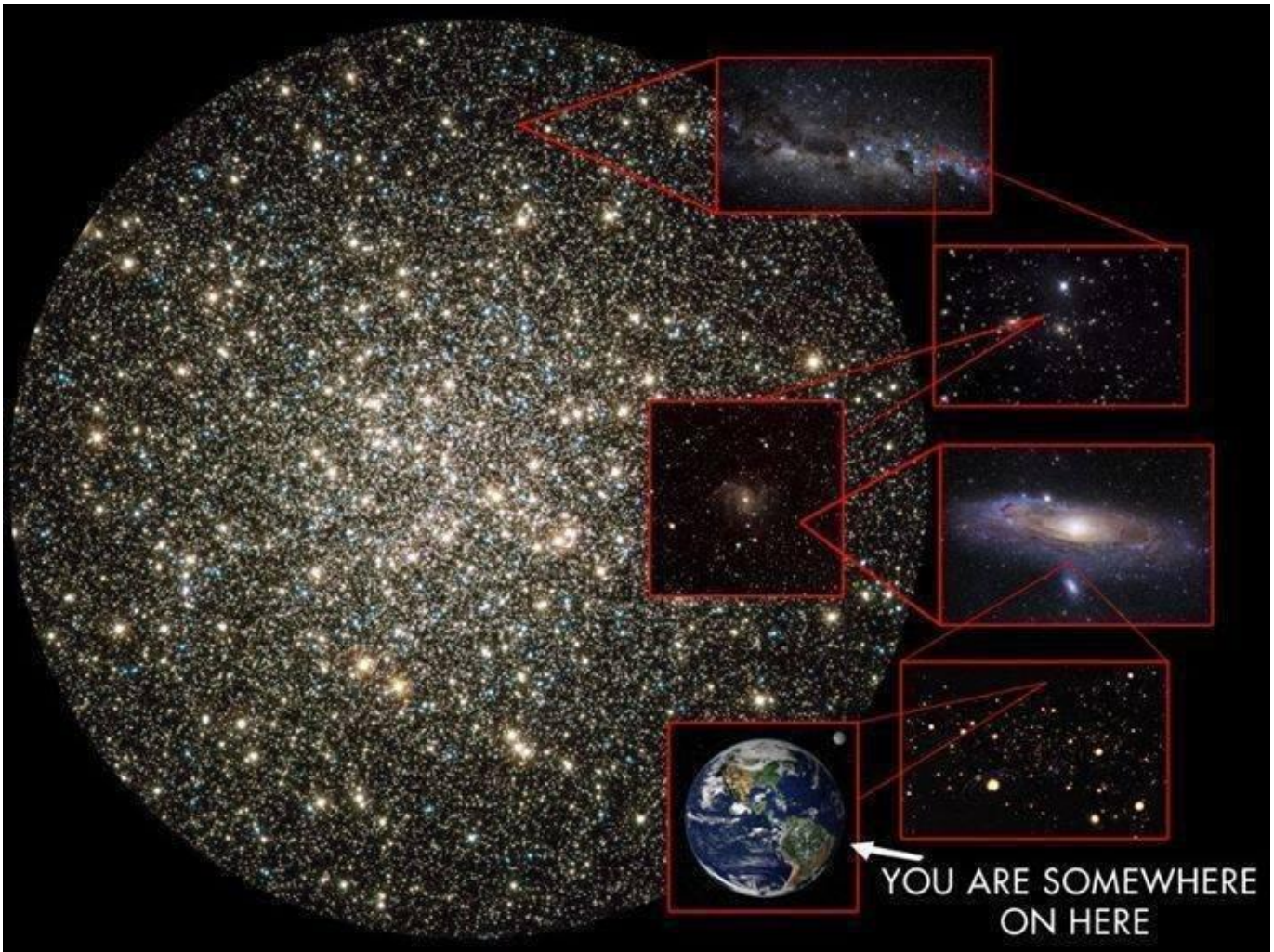
When you start thinking you are something, directly thereafter you start believing that you are above God, and that sin does not apply to you. You start worshiping idols, (see Eze 18) you start defiling your neighbor's wife (adultery, fornication, homosexuality), you start stealing your neighbor's pledge (smash and grab shoplifting; cybercrime, etc.), you oppress the poor and needy, you take advantage of your brother with high interest rates – usury (you grind the faces of the poor), you act violently against your neighbor (750 murders in Chicago in 1 year, and tens of millions of abortions annually). In short, you start committing abominations, because you are no longer walking in God's light, you are walking in your own. That is when you look us in the face and say or scream "I have nothing to repent for!"

Robert Haldane - *It is the will of God that His people should make a just estimate of their own gifts, and not from ignorance, overvalue themselves and despise others. Stop overvaluing yourself. You are nothing. Everything you have, you received from The Almighty God. 1 Cor. 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?* All men and women are prone to overvalue themselves and therefore to each of them Paul pointedly brings home this exhortation. All people are “built” to be high-minded.

We should also remember when we stand before this generation what our Lord said: *Lu 10:20 **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***

We did not write our names in heaven by our good works, we have no good works. A merciful God wrote our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life. We should have a humble view when we see our fellow man/woman who has been appointed to hell, when we deserve the same and have been delivered by the Grace of God. *Ps 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Barnes: *Not to think, etc. Not to over-estimate himself, or to think more of himself than he ought to. What is the true standard by which we ought to estimate ourselves he immediately adds. This is a caution against pride; and an exhortation not to judge of ourselves by our talents, wealth, or office, but to form another standard of judging of ourselves, by our Christian character. The Romans would probably be in much danger from this quarter. The prevailing habit of judging among them was according to rank, or wealth, or eloquence, or office. While this habit of judging prevailed in the world around them, there was danger that it might also prevail in the church. And the exhortation was, that they should not judge of their own characters by the usual modes among men, but by their Christian attainments. There is no sin to which men are more prone than an inordinate self-valuation and pride. Instead of judging by that which constitutes true excellence of character, they pride themselves on that which is of no intrinsic value — on rank, and titles, and external accomplishments; or on talents, learning, or wealth. The only true standard of character pertains to the principles of action, or to that which constitutes the moral nature of the man; and to that the apostle calls the Roman people.*



We are to THINK SOBERLY. What great advice Paul gives us! We are to take off the high-minded, self-righteous glasses we are born with and see ourselves for who we really are. We are nothing. We are to see ourselves through God's eyes. We are just an insignificant, tiny, nothing of a fish or one grain of sand, in an immeasurable ocean that is

called the universe (see You Are Somewhere on Here graphics). What we have, was given to us by God, so let us think soberly. And in fact, let us *live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works - Titus 2:12-13.* That is what good looks like.

Barnes: *But to think soberly. Literally, "to think so as to act soberly or wisely." So to estimate ourselves as to act or demean ourselves wisely, prudently, modestly. Those who overestimate themselves are proud, haughty, foolish in their deportment. Those who think of themselves as they ought, are modest, sober, prudent. There is no way to maintain a wise and proper conduct so certain, as to form a humble and modest estimate of our own character. We become drunk with our own accomplishments and pride, as if we did something. You did not on your own score the touchdown. The truth is that we let you score the touchdown. We designed the play. We called the play at exactly the right time. We recruited and trained the team. We trained you. We practiced the plays over and over and over. You went through the motions of scoring the touchdown, but everything was designed for that outcome.* That is what happens with us. Dan. 4:28 *All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?* King Nebuchadnezzar makes a statement in the form of a question. God answers the question with a resounding NO. 31 *While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.* Here is the real answer that King Nebuchadnezzar eventually arrives at: Dan. 4:33 *The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. 34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

*According as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Haldane – By faith we are united with the Saviour, and by faith we received out of His fulness all that is imparted to*



*us by God. The measure then, of faith, with which each believer is blessed, whether strong faith or weak, great faith or little, indicates with certainty both his real character before God, and his relative standing among other believers... We here also learn that not only faith, but every degree of it, is the gift of God; for men believe according as God hath dealt to each of them the measure of faith; and unto every one of us given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

*Barnes: Men commonly regard the objects on which they pride themselves as things of their own creation, or as depending on themselves. But let an object be regarded as the gift of God, and it ceases to excite pride, and the feeling is at once changed into gratitude. He therefore who regards God as the Source of all blessings, and he only, will be a humble man.*

There are many words spoken among us about our duties respecting our behavior, so I would remind all of us that we can do nothing without the Lord; therefore it is equally important that we put all of our matters before the Lord and ask Him every day to help us to do what is before us with a proper spirit and in a way that is pleasing to Him and will glorify His name.

***Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.***

*Ps 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*

*Ps 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

*Jer 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

And O that we would all be blessed as Jabez. *1Ch 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

I love you all. Amen.