

Daily Prayer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 1.9-11, ESV.

...understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just

Lord, help me to understand how Paul, who quoted the Old Testament in Romans 3,
There is none righteous, no not one, no one understands, no one seeks God,
can now speak as if some *are* just,
and that the law is not for these just ones, but for sinners.

but for the lawless and disobedient,

Evidently your law is now for those who do not keep it,
who actively disobey it,
who trivialize it by reducing it to externals,
who never dream how deep the law penetrates
when we realize it is all about our *hearts*.

for the ungodly and sinners,

Oddly enough, Father, this is comforting in a way:
We can look at your law to see what is *ungodly*,
to see that the law spells out sin for us.
Breaking your law makes us unlike you,
keeping your law makes us *like* you.

for the unholy and profane,

We see that *ungodly* is *unholy* and *profane* -
vulgar, unworthy, irreverent, contemptible.

for those who strike their fathers and mothers,

This is extreme *dis-honoring* of fathers and mothers,
nowhere near the love and honor that would make us similar to you.

for murderers,

Help me to see that Jesus meant what he said when he called anger *murder*

the sexually immoral,

and lust *adultery*.

men who practice homosexuality,

Give me your wisdom on this, Father.

enslavers,

Help me see *today's* enslavers who to this day
continue to abuse ones you have made.

liars,

Help me see the damage done to your truth by many - and avoid it.

perjurers,

Give me courage to speak truth in love.

and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,
Help me see the issues of the heart underlying *everything*.

in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

Lord, I think I see it now.

Your servant Paul knew very well that *striving for
the righteousness that comes from law,*
never works.

It becomes clear that the *just* ones he speaks of
know very well that they, too, are sinners,
but now, through faith,
they are living in *Christ's* righteousness
which is counted as theirs as they depend on Christ alone
to pay the debt they never could pay.

These are the *just ones* who are now and forevermore free from the law's demands.

We show this to be the case as we find ourselves
actually living by your law out of love and gratitude - *not* indebtedness.

Help me so to walk
for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

personalized by ptc