



# Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 34.0

June 26  
2014

## Outlaw

**“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).**

In the Last Days, lawlessness will increase. Lawlessness is anarchy. Anarchy is a state of chaos because authority is not acknowledged. If authority is not recognized, who is in charge of determining what is right and wrong? In Israel, lawlessness meant “*every man did what was right in his own eyes*” (Judges 17:6b).

When someone does not recognize authority, they are usurping authority for themselves. This means they decide “right” and “wrong,” because they make themselves “judge.” When you don’t recognize the authority of the law, you are automatically an outlaw to it. An outlaw is defined in Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary as “a person excluded from the benefit of the law, or deprived of its protection” and automatically warranted death by the judge.

The purpose of a nation’s laws should be to protect the citizens and benefit their lives. How? The law promises accountability and justice. It enters a covenant with citizens to avenge harms done to them, make wrongs right, and punish those who cause harm. The law promises accountability for an outlaw’s actions. While human law is flawed, just law must be based on God’s perfect Law for society to function. Just human law keeps man’s sin to others restrained by promising accountability for harm. This promise of accountability calms fears, fostering an atmosphere of trust that encourages respect and love in society. If everyone agrees to abide by the law, you are more at ease—you can trust your neighbors to act justly, and your love for your country, state, town, and neighbors grows.

It is difficult, however, for people to feel

love for one another if lawlessness increases, because the protection of the law decreases and fear floods society. When neighbors or leaders do whatever they want to you regardless of your welfare, your love for them diminishes, because you cannot trust that they will provide you with justice and help if you need it.

Man’s law always returns to lawlessness, but God’s Law is perfect and unchanging. It is the only legitimate Law, and all good law stems from it. God is eternal, just, and holy, and He is every man’s ultimate Judge. Only God has the final right to judge all mankind, no matter what country, nationality, code, or law they live by, regardless of whether they acknowledge His authority or not. Because of the Fall, every human being is an outlaw to God’s Law, for “*everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness*” (1 John 3:4). Sin is to not acknowledge God’s authority, thus sinners are outside God’s benefit and protection, and they suffer death. God’s Son, Jesus, died in the place of sinners, taking their death sentence on Himself, so that if they turn from their sin and follow Him, they might be reconciled to God and live—made lawful and restored to His eternal benefits.

As all mankind was once lawless in God’s eyes, we can see God’s love does not grow cold as lawlessness increases, “*for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). No matter how lawless mankind becomes, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8). As Believers, our love also should not grow cold for sinners as their lawlessness increases. Let’s share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in love with outlaws, testifying against their lawlessness, praying that they would turn to Jesus and be saved from everlasting death. **Amen.**

Explore more devotionals, articles, sermons, and music from the Body of Christ—also sign up for the bi-monthly Newsletter and learn more about the Berean Christian Fellowship and its ministry, the Berean Lamp—by visiting us at [www.bereanlamp.org](http://www.bereanlamp.org)