Man as to his basic nature is lawless. He rebels against the rules of his Creator and refuses to submit: “the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7). In our unsaved state we were slaves to uncleanness and to iniquity (lawlessness) unto iniquity (lawlessness)–(Rom. 6:19). The very essence of sin is lawlessness: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law (lit.–lawlessness)–(1 John 3:4). This was exemplified by the lawless citizens of Sodom (2 Pet. 2:8). The destiny of every lawless person is hell: “depart from Me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)–(Matt. 7:23; 13:41). Only God could rescue us from our lawless deeds.

The Saviour was put on the cross by wicked (lawless) hands (Acts 2:23), and was crucified with transgressors (lawless ones), one on each side (Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37). His substitutionary death made it possible for Him to “redeem us from all iniquity (lawlessness)”–(Tit. 2:14). God’s gracious forgiveness means that He will never again remember our iniquities (lawless deeds)–(Heb. 8:12; 10:17), and we are now free to yield our members to God as servants to righteousness unto holiness (Rom. 6:19).

We now delight in the law of God which we once despised (Rom. 7:22). The mystery of iniquity (lawlessness) is working in our society even now, but how much more when the Restrainer (God the Holy Spirit in the Church) is removed (2 Thess. 2:7). Then iniquity (lawlessness) will greatly abound during the tribulation (Matt. 24:12) with little restraint holding it back. Finally the wicked one (lawless one), the Antichrist, will be revealed (2 Thess. 2:8). Yet, take heart brethren; we have read our Bible, and we know that in the end the Lord Jesus wins (2 Thess. 2:8)!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org