

Luther

God Can Make the Wrath of Man Redound unto His Praise!

Psalm 76:1-12



Emser

“Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain” (*Psalm 76:10*). Our sovereign Lord can take the wicked actions and intentions of ungodly men and use them to fulfill His holy purposes and bring glory to His Name.

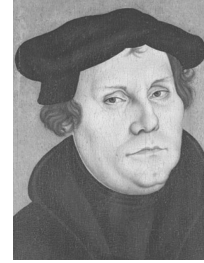
This Bible principle is wonderfully illustrated by the turbulent life of the reformer, Martin Luther. Luther’s 95 Theses greatly angered Pope Leo X. When Luther refused to recant at the Diet of Worms, he was considered an outlaw. His protector, Frederick the Wise, had him spirited away to the protection of the Wartburg Castle. While there, Luther accomplished an incredible task. In just eleven weeks he translated the Greek New Testament into the German language. It wasn’t long before 120,000 copies were in circulation.

Luther’s sworn enemy, Duke George of Saxony, forbade the purchase of Luther’s New Testament and instead commissioned his court theologian, Hieronymus Emser, to make a translation for Catholics. Emser, a fierce opponent of Luther, began the translation work but soon gave up and actually plagiarized Luther’s New Testament, practically in its entirety. Although the reading of Luther’s New Testament was forbidden, Emser’s edition, which differed little from Luther’s, was commanded to be read!

God’s Word had free course and was glorified (*2 Thess. 3:1*). Luther commented on his rival’s Bible: “I like Emser’s Testament as far as the wording is concerned, since it is essentially my text and was stolen from me word for word.” Even the machinations of the enemies of God will eventually demonstrate God’s sovereignty. God turns the evil works of men so as to display His glory. God even worked in the sin-blinded heart of Duke George, who apparently came to faith in Christ in the end. In his final words he asked for mercy and salvation based solely on Christ’s suffering and death, a prayer which undoubtedly was answered..

(Based on research done by Dr. Manfred Kober and used with his permission.)

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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