

▪ Successful Rebels via C.S. Lewis ...

Cf. C. S. Lewis, "In creating beings with free will, omnipotence from the outset submits to the possibility of such defeat. What you call defeat, I call miracle: for to make things which are not Itself, and thus to become, in a sense, capable of being resisted by its own handiwork, is the most astonishing and unimaginable of all the feats we attribute to the Deity. **I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside. I do not mean that the ghosts may not wish to come out of hell, in the vague fashion wherein an envious man 'wishes' to be happy: but they certainly do not will even the first preliminary stages of that self-abandonment through which alone the soul can reach any good. They enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved**" (The Problem of Pain [London, 1943], pp. 115-16). (1 Morris, L. (1988). The Epistle to the Romans. Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.)

▪ The Religious Illusion of the Pharisee:

- In the world that his darkened mind had created, the Pharisee thought that indeed he would be the one who returned home justified ...
- He [Jesus] also **told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:** 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:9-14 ESV).

"Successful Rebels":

Getting What We Demanded from God!

Romans 1:18-32



BREAK
THE
RULES!

Living free from God ...
Descent into darkness ...