

God Gave Them Up

By Robert W. Reed

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I'm going to title the message this morning "God Gave Them Up." We're going to read most of the verses in Romans chapter 1 this morning, but notice with me verses 21 through 24:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:"

Heavenly Father, we do ask this morning as we come here to worship together, and Lord, we pray that Your blessings, Your anointing to be upon the reading of Holy Scripture. And, Father, we do ask this morning that Thy will be done. We ask, Lord, as we look into Thy Word that You would truly teach us and guide us and lead us. And, Lord, help us as we come to this chapter and this book here in the New Testament, for it's in Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.

You may be seated. I preached a message recently for the radio dealing with creation versus evolution, and I'm not going to get into that thought this morning even though we have just read a few verses dealing with the Creator and His creation. But as we come here to the book of Romans, we find that the theme of the book of Romans is the righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel. As we look at our text, we can see the condition of the world and we can see the need of the gospel showing the depravity of the human heart and how nations are without excuse.

Three times in our text we find the expression "God gave them up" or "God gave them over." We find in verse 24 that God also gave them up to uncleanness. As we come down to verse 26, we find in this passage that God gave them up unto vile affections, and then we see in verse 28, "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind..." Now, what we have here is a reflection of the world. We live in a world of sin, and as we come here to this Scripture, I want you to notice the emphasis that is placed upon the wrath of God.

We're going to talk about the gospel and its power in verses 16 and 17 a little later and also verses 1 through 4, but in the latter part of this chapter, we find God's judgment upon nations and upon individuals, and this text will show us exactly where America stands with God as a nation

— and I assure you that where America stands with God is not centered around the economy and wealth and riches and military power. You see, ancient Rome was a great nation in the eyes of the world, and Rome was in power when the apostle wrote this letter. Rome was very powerful; it was rich and influential in the world and had the largest military. Ancient Rome was the last world power upon the face of this earth beginning with Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome.

When we compare America with Scripture, we find that America is not a Christian nation and has never been a Christian nation. Now, America has been influenced by a lot of Christians — and thank God we've got Christians in this country today — but America is not a Christian nation, and she has never been a Christian nation from her foundation. When we look at our nation today, we see sin, sodomy, abortion, wars. We see crime; we see materialistic people, idolatry. We're not a Christian nation. If we were to look just through human eyes, we'd think, "Well, we're doing fantastic," but when we look through the spectacles of the Holy Scriptures, we find that we're not really doing well as a nation.

Every year between 6,000 and 10,000 churches close their doors in this country. That's between 100 and 200 every week. And even though more than 70 percent of U.S. citizens still claim to be Christians, less than 20 percent attend church on a regular basis. And it's even worse than this in Europe. In Europe it's on a much larger scale. Hundreds of churches have not only closed, but the buildings have been used for warehouses and everything under the sun, and there are literally hundreds of churches that have been transformed into Islamic mosques. Now, I'd rather be here in America than anywhere else in the world. I pray for our country. I probably pray for our president more than anybody in this church and even more than anybody in this community. I pray for this nation and I pray for our president and I pray for those who are in leadership, but, basically, we are not a Christian nation.

About 25 years ago I wrote an article and preached a message on America — and that article, by the way, is still in the library. It needs to be changed some; it needs to be updated and added to and taken away from. But when I wrote that article, I based what I was writing on some books and authors and quotes from our forefathers. But there's one problem with that. The authors quoted only what they wanted to quote from our forefathers, and I didn't know that at the time. We used to have some David Barton videos in our library. I took them out a number of years ago. Those are not all correct.

You heard me stand in this pulpit and read exactly what some of the forefathers believed, and we find that there was a mixture of Christianity and humanism and the Masonic order and the philosophy of reason and all these kinds of things. We've had Christians in this country, and we've been influenced by Christianity, and we're all thankful for that. There have been thousands of churches across our land, and we're all thankful for that. But many of the founders of our country were Christian in name only and had never been born again — many of them. Many of

them were Masons and deists. They were influenced by enlightened thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries with the philosophy of reason and humanism, and the more you study them, the more you see this influence even in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. God is not in those documents.

We find that many of the founders held to the morality that Jesus taught, but at the same time, they denied His authority. Many of them denied the Trinity, the divinity of Christ, the virgin birth, the atonement for sins, the resurrection of Christ, and the fall of man and the need of salvation. Here's a quote by another author: "The major influences on men who drafted both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights originated from the writings of the enlightened philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries who, for the most part, believed that faith could be expressed purely by use of reason and intellect and that God's intervention in the process was not a necessary element." And when you study Freemasonry and its philosophy and that they believe in God but not the God of the Bible, and when you study the philosophy of the Age of Enlightenment and the Age of Reason, you will find this philosophy in many documents in our country.

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, professed to be a Christian, but he rejected the Trinity, the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, the bodily resurrection of Christ, the judgment of hell, and the fall of man. Now, if somebody walked into our church today and said that he rejected these things, we would say he was lost and on his way to hell. And Thomas Jefferson also made his own Bible by cutting out from the Scripture everything that pertained to Christ's divinity, miracles, angels, prophecy, and Messianic genealogy. So he made his own Bible, but he cut out everything he didn't like. And Thomas Paine, who wrote "*Common Sense*," which was a bestseller during the American Revolution, is considered to be the one who sparked the American Revolution, and he also wrote "*The Age of Reason*" in which he attacked the Bible, its miracles, Christ's deity, the virgin birth, the blood atonement, the bodily resurrection of Christ, and the fall of man, and he described the Bible that you hold in your hand this morning as a book of lies, wickedness, and blasphemy — and people praise these guys.

John Adams, the vice president of George Washington and the second president of the United States, was a Unitarian, and he rejected the Trinity, Jesus' divinity, and the inspiration of Scripture. He called the doctrine of the Trinity absurdity. You see, America never has been a Christian nation, and we need to gauge where we are with God as a nation not based upon our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the economy, etc., etc., or the documents that we've found. We need to base where we are with God as a nation upon what we see in Romans chapter 1 and other places in the Scripture.

Now, this morning we're going to be looking at, number one, uncleanness in verse 24 of Romans chapter 1. God gave them up to uncleanness, which is sexual immorality. Number two, we're going to look in verse 26 at the fact that God gave them up to vile affections, that is, sexual perversion; and, number three, we're going to be considering the fact that God gave them over to a reprobate mind, which is spiritual madness. That's my three-point sermon this morning.

Now, I've quoted George Washington in articles that I've written, but he was considered a deist. As a matter of fact, his true faith was a mystery. Three different pastors questioned his salvation. One pastor who knew Washington for over 20 years said he could not confirm Washington's Christianity. The pastor confronted Washington about his faith and turning his back on the Lord's Supper, and he said that Washington was a deist. One of the pastors who said that was Bishop White. Washington talked about God and the Bible. He said, "You can't govern a nation without God and the Bible," and yet, what God? I mean, what are we talking about? Are we talking about the Masonic god? Are we talking about the god of reason or the God of the Bible? What exactly are we talking about? Like Benjamin Franklin, many would take some of the morals for a society from the Bible, and then they would cast away the truths about the Lord Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, Benjamin Franklin was a skeptic. He denied Christ's divinity, atonement for sins, and rejected the inspiration of Scripture. He was a wicked man, a womanizer, a drinker, a Mason, and he was also involved in secret societies. He was a fan of the wicked French skeptic Voltaire.

So when we really get down and look at some of these founders of America, we find that there were some who were true Christians but many were not, and many of them were Christian in name only as we see across America today. And, again, they were influenced by the enlightenment and the thinkers of reason and things of that nature, and there was an unholy mixture of the Bible and those kinds of philosophies. There are those today who mix together the Bible and Freemasonry, and basically what you've got is a false gospel. We'll see that as we study the book of Galatians.

John Locke, one of the most influential American writers, was a Unitarian. He exalted human reasoning above the Bible and at the same time seemed to defend Christianity. Now, that's just odd to me. I'm kind of a black or white person. You either believe it or you don't. That's the way I treat Scripture and that's the way I talk to people. If you say you're a Christian, then you're going to believe the Bible from Genesis 1 to Revelation chapter 22, and you're going to accept all the doctrine and truths therein. We may not agree on every little thing, but we won't deny the virgin birth, the blood atonement, the creation story, and the second coming of Christ.

But Thomas Jefferson quoted from Locke in the Declaration of Independence, and it was Locke's influence that resulted in the U.S. Constitution's omission of God. Instead of exalting God as the Mayflower pilgrims had done in the very first words of their Compact, the framers of

the U.S. Constitution exalted man saying, "We, the people of the United States" — and I'm quoting from another author. I'm even a little leery of the statements "the laws of nature" and "nature's God." I think that leans toward the enlightenment age and the doctrine of philosophy of man's reason; in other words, man can believe everything that he can reason out, but if you can't reason out the miracles and the virgin birth and the divinity of Christ, then you put that aside — and many of the forefathers did that.

So my point is this: America has never been a Christian nation but influenced by many Christians — and thank God for that — and America has had many churches and many Christians, even in politics, but here's my point: If we're going to gauge where America is as a nation, then we must consider Romans chapter 1 and other Scripture. Verse 18 of Romans chapter 1 says, "[For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.](#)" Why does God's wrath come? God displays His wrath in more ways than what we can imagine, but why does God's wrath come? It comes for rejecting God and His Word. That's the bottom line. Men hold or suppress the truth in their unrighteousness. By their defiant sin, they reject truth, and verse 32 tells us that they know the judgment of God. Verses 19 and 20 of Romans chapter 1 go on to say, "[Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.](#)"²⁰[For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.](#)" And God's wrath is revealed not only in the end time when Christ returns, but His wrath is revealed today in what we're going to be reading about in these three points where God gave somebody over. But verses 19 and 20 show why God's wrath is upon them. It is because God has revealed Himself not only in creation, but also in the conscience of man, so men are without excuse.

Now, from verse 21 on we have a long and dark list of sins of the heathen which bring the judgment of God. Verse 21 says, "[Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.](#)" God has revealed Himself to mankind in creation, in conscience, and, of course, in His Word, but we find in verse 21 that man refused to glorify God and be thankful, so darkness set in. And then in verse 22, man refuses the wisdom of God. Verse 22 says, "[Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.](#)" So we see the foolishness of man. And verse 23 says, "[And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.](#)"

So in verse 23 we see that man refused to worship and honor God, and we see the subject of idolatry. The first step in divine abandonment is right here in this text — idolatry, in other words, worshiping something else besides the Lord or worshiping the Lord in the wrong way. Going all the way back to Genesis 20 and the first two commandments, we find that idolatry can involve the worship of false gods or it can involve the worship of the true God in a false way, or idolatry

can be setting up idols in our heart according to Ezekiel 14, verse 3. Idolatry can be anything that's placed above God according to verse 25 in our text. Covetousness is idolatry, verse 29 and Colossians 3:5, and we find that idolatry leads to God's judgment and abandonment, verses 29 through 32.

Now, what does the phrase "God gave them up" or "God gave them over" mean? We have a sermon and an article on the reprobate mind. But what does it mean in verses 24, 26, and 28 when God says He "gave them up" or "gave them over"? Well, this is God's judgment, His judicial act in declaring them guilty. Now, how did they get to this point? They gave up on God before God ever gave up on them. They abandoned God before God abandoned them. So for God to give someone up — a nation or an individual — it means that they're abandoned by God. They are left to their own depravity. Now, think about that. God's restraints are just taken away and they're condemned, and there's no more access to righteousness and hope. God removes His restraints; He removes His hands from individuals, giving them over to their own lusts as in the days of Noah.

Have you ever thought about this? God is not only judging because of sin; God is judging this nation with sin. You'll see that as we move along. Psalm 81 and verse 12 says, "[So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels](#)"; Acts chapter 7, verse 42, "[Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven...](#)," and 2 Thessalonians 2, verse 11, says, "[And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.](#)" And when we look in the text, we see that the people wanted their own pleasures and their own way. They rejected the truth of God. One writer says, "Here is traced to practical tendency of heathenism, not an innocent and harmless system but as resulting with the most gross and shameful acts of depravity."

So what does it mean when the Bible says that God gave them up? We'll find similar expressions all through the Old Testament and New Testament. It basically means that this is God's judgment, a judicial act. They're declared guilty and God abandons them; in other words, He pulls away His restraints and leaves them to their own depravity, and there's no end as to where man can go.

God gave them up to uncleanness

Let's get into our first point. Verse 24 says, "[Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.](#)" The first thing that we find is that God gave them up to uncleanness, that is, sexual immorality. As we look through the Scripture, we find that there is a connection and a link between apostasy and immorality and between idolatry and immorality. Now, here in verse 24 is the evidence of divine abandonment. In other words, we find here that God gave them up to

uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts. God is pulling back His restraints, and He's allowing them to walk in their depravity and to dishonor their bodies between themselves. And why did God give them up to uncleanness? Because of idolatry, because of apostasy, and because they had rejected the Word of God. They had rejected God Himself. Sin begins by rejecting truth. It begins in the heart and it manifests itself in the flesh, Matthew 15:19. They were not willing to retain God in their knowledge. So if we want to gauge where America is at today, let's not gauge it upon the economy, the size of our military, the largeness of our population and things of that nature. Listen. Gauge it upon what God says about nations, and we find in verse 24 that God gave them up to uncleanness — Notice — through the lusts of their own hearts.

So God has abandoned many because of their idolatry and their apostasy, and He just turns them over to their own depravity. He gives them up to uncleanness; in other words, he ceases to restrain them. He's just allowing them to act out their sinfulness and their depravity. Do we not see this across our land? And it just progresses. We go from uncleanness to vile affections and then to a reprobate mind. So there's this progression, it appears, in Romans chapter 1, but it all started with idolatry. It all started with apostasy. It all started with men abandoning God and not retaining Him in their knowledge, and then God abandons them and turns them over to their depravity.

Uncleanness is a broad word that covers all kinds and types of sexual immorality that violates the seventh commandment in Exodus 20:14, "[Thou shalt not commit adultery.](#)" Marriage is a creation ordinance that's repeated again in the book of Exodus, so when we talk about uncleanness — that which is impure, that which is defiled, that which is morally unclean — it would include adultery, fornication, prostitution, incest, rape, and pornography. You could go through the Scriptures and you could probably add a long list to that, but that's what uncleanness has to do with.

But verse 24 also says, "[to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.](#)" So we find here that sexual immorality destroys the body and brings it to shame. They abused their bodies, and when we abuse our bodies, we're distorting the image of God that man was created in. So uncleanness begins in the heart and it manifests itself in the body, and we see the adultery and the fornication, the pornography and all these things in our society today.

Now, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, and 11 is going to fit not only for point number one, but also for point number two when we deal with the subject of sodomy. Sodomy — not that particular name — is mentioned twice in 1 Corinthians 6:9, but fornication and adulteries are mentioned as well. Chapter 5, verses 9, 10, and 11, mention fornication or adultery. Chapter 10, verses 6 through 8, mention fornication by Israel in the Old Testament, and around 24,000 people died because of fornication and idolatry. In 2 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 21, the Lord, through Paul, is dealing with what Paul would be dealing with because of those who had not repented of uncleanness and

fornication. But notice in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, beginning in verse 9, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate" — that has to do with sodomy — "nor abusers of themselves with mankind" — sodomy — ¹⁰"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Fornication and uncleanness not only destroy the soul and mind of an individual, but they also destroy the body. Something happens in fornication, adulteries, and things of that nature like no other sin. Verse 13 says, "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." Then verse 18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body," and he speaks of our bodies as the temple of the Lord. In our article on fornication, I talk about fornication being a sin, not only against God and others, but it's a sin against our own selves, and I'm quoting:

"Sexual sins are some of the darkest sins of the human family and are judged with the strongest judgment (Jude 7), and this sin destroys a person physically, spiritually, and emotionally. In verses 15 and 16 of our text here it unites the fornicator to devils, and the individual becomes a soul mate of the other person. In verse 18 fornication is considered a sin against the body. This sin rises from within a person and has a peculiar effect on the body. It deadens the spirit of man and has a lasting moral stain on the body. It defiles the temple of God, verses 19 and 20. It weakens the individual and is like a cancer that eats away from the inside. Once indulged, it is difficult to overcome and can produce disease and shortness of life."

And I go on mentioning some other things here:

"And basically it reduces one to an empty shell and enslaves him. There's no such thing as casual sex, and ultimately it damns a soul to hell."

In Galatians 5, verses 19 through 21, we read that the uncleanness — the fornication and adultery, etc. — is a work of the flesh. Colossians chapter 3, verses 5 and 6, tell us that uncleanness brings God's wrath, as we see in Romans 1. In 1 Timothy chapter 1, verses 9 and 10, uncleanness is a violation of God's law, and 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says to abstain from fornication. In Revelation 9:21 they repented not of their fornication. In Revelation 21:8 the fornicators, as well as those with other sins, are cast into the Lake of Fire, and then in Revelation 22:15 they're outside the city of God, the New Jerusalem.

So to find out where we stand as a nation, Romans 1 says that God gave them up unto uncleanness. You can go to the television, Internet, newspaper, music, Hollywood, and you're

going to find immorality and nakedness and things of that nature. In the 60s and 70s there was a sexual revolution, the hippie generation, the Woodstock generation. But you know what? This revolution actually started in the Roaring Twenties. When America was at her height in the Roaring Twenties before the stock market crashed, there were a lot of changes. Men had been off to war. Many of them died; some of them were coming back. The women had entered the workplace, and about 25 percent of them stayed in the workplace. But you had what is referred to as "flappers" and the thinner and shorter dresses showing more flesh, makeup, women loaded with jewelry and flaunting their sexuality. This happened in the 20s. This happened in our country about a hundred years ago. So we're talking about some things that happened as in the days of Noah. Genesis chapter 6 speaks of the imaginations of the heart, the corruption and the wickedness of man, and they repented not, and that's why God destroyed the human race except for eight souls. The earth was filled with corruption, and God gave them up unto uncleanness because of their apostasy and idols and they would not retain God in their knowledge. And, again, an idol is more than a statue of stone or wood. We can have idols in our heart. That's very clear as we look into the Scriptures.

And even in marriage there can be uncleanness. There can be perversions and uncleanness and immorality, and I think most of you know this and I don't have to get into describing anything. You know, I don't describe the sins. I mention what the Bible says are sins. Even with sodomy, I never describe anything about it. I give you what the Scriptures say and I leave it alone. I believe it's wrong to get into descriptive things. But we're not even talking about sodomy right now; we're talking about uncleanness, sexual immorality, and this exists in adultery and fornication and, again, it can even exist inside a marriage. Ephesians 5, verses 5 and 6, say, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Very clear. It's amazing to me that we hear so little about these things in our society or even among Christians in churches.

So if I want to gauge America and see how well we're doing, I'm not going to look at the economy and the employment rate and whatever. I'm not going to look at the stock market. I'm not going to look at any of those things. I'm going to go to Romans 1 and ask, "Do I see uncleanness in our country?" When I see uncleanness, sexual immorality, that tells me that God has given somebody over.

God gave them up to vile affections

Something else that we see in our country is described in Romans 1:25. Verse 25 says, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." Notice, every sin links back to somebody worshiping and

serving the wrong thing. It goes right back to apostasy. And then verse 26 says, "For this cause..." What cause? They changed the truth of God into a lie; they worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, and "For this cause God gave them up" — Notice — "unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly [strange], and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet [right]." Both Testaments condemn sodomy.

So we're talking about the second gauge whereby we can measure where a nation stands. Where do they stand on the subject of sodomy? First, where do they stand on adultery and fornication, uncleanness, pornography, etc.? The second gauge is where do they stand when it comes to the subject of sodomy, verses 26 and 27, which is called here "vile affections"? This is sexual perversion. I don't usually call sodomites "gay" because the word "gay" is a good word that means happy. There's nothing happy about this sin and AIDS and all the things that it brings — nothing happy about that. People have said that the Bible doesn't really say much about this sin. Well, what more do you need besides Romans 1? But it's also mentioned throughout Scripture. Listen to this list: Genesis 13:13; Genesis 18:20 through 22; Genesis 19:5; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; 1 Kings 24; 1 Kings 15:11 through 14; 1 Kings 22:41 through 46; 2 Kings 22:2; 2 Kings 23:7 actually mentions the sodomites and the kings dealing with that; Ezekiel 16, verses 48 through 50; Romans 1, verses 26 and 27; 1 Corinthians 6, verse 9; 1 Timothy 1:10, and Jude 7. Now, there are other passages besides these from the first book of the Bible all the way into the book of Jude in the New Testament that deal with this subject.

Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed with fire and brimstone because of the sin of sodomy. Now, there were other sins that led up to their destruction, which is what we're talking about this morning. They did not retain God in their knowledge. Ezekiel 16, verses 48 through 50, speak of Sodom and their pride, their fullness of bread, their abundance of idleness, and they did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy, and they were haughty and committed abominations. Verse 50 says, "therefore I took them away as I saw *good*."

Now, if I were to gauge America and see where we are, then I need to look at the subject of sodomy as well. And I don't need to ask anyone their opinion. I don't need to know what the Democrats think or what the Republicans think. The majority of our presidents in the last 25 years have supported sodomy in one way or another. So what we need to ask this morning is what does God think about this. In the Old Testament, sodomy is called an abomination. It's a grievous sin; it is wicked; it is the lowest of depravity; it's the end of the road, and it is the measure of the wickedness of man. Sodomy is the bottom line. It is wicked. The Bible mentions the whore and the sodomite in Deuteronomy 23, verses 17 and 18, and the sodomite is compared to a dog in that passage.

Now, Jude 7 talks about fire and brimstone and the eternal fire of God Almighty, and so many are trying to justify sodomy today. Jude 7 says, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." We're talking about pure wickedness. And I don't know whether they took this out or left it in, but just check into the new trade deal of Canada and Mexico and the U.S. and what was put in there to make provision for the sodomite. Now, they may have removed it because some were talking about it and some pushed on the White House and whatever, but there are supposed to be provisions for sodomy in that trades agreement.

Sodomites are everywhere we turn today. They're in the music. It doesn't matter whether it's rock and roll or country music, most of the musicians are sodomites. And you've heard me preach on the classical music. Many of them were sodomites. In the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving — and I didn't watch it; I heard about it — at the end of the parade, two lesbians were supposed to have kissed, and all the cameras were around them. Wherever you turn in this country, sodomy is pushed. You heard me back in July read off a long list of businesses that support sodomy: Costco, Walmart, McDonald's, Coca-Cola, AT&T, Apple, Facebook, Starbucks, Chevron, Exxon, Google, YouTube, and on and on and on.

All I need to do is look at this subject of sodomy and ask, "Where are we as a nation? Where do we stand with God?" — not that we're a super power or we've got the greatest military in the world or that our economy is good and unemployment is so low. That's not the gauge as to where America stands with the God of Heaven who rules all things. Ancient Rome and Greece were eaten up with this sin. Even the Roman military had hundreds and thousands of sodomites. You see, all sodomites are not sissies. Some of them love to fight. Some of them are tougher than most of you who are in this church this morning. The Roman military was just eaten up with this sin, and so is America. Sodomy is pushed in our government, in the media, in the schools, in Hollywood, businesses, the military, music, and even in churches now — everywhere you turn.

Here's a picture of former president George H. W. Bush who just died and whose wife Barbara died in April. He's sitting in his wheelchair, and he and his wife are smiling as they stand in as witnesses to a sodomite lesbian wedding and sign the marriage license. Now, do you reckon God is smiling upon that? Do you reckon somebody who will do this is a Christian? Do you reckon that's so? God is the judge, not me, but I'm simply saying to you that I know what God says in His Word, and we need to be brought back to reality.

When George W. Bush was in office, he and his wife Laura wrote a letter to the sodomites in California. I handed out copies of the letter to the church, and some got mad and some didn't. Laura Bush wrote a book after they left office, and she praised abortion and the sodomites. Obama lit up the White House in rainbow colors. I'm saying, where are we as a nation? The 2016

Republican National Convention headlines said "RNC Makes History," and as Donald Trump became the nominee, Peter Thiel, a billionaire sodomite and co-founder of PayPal, gave a speech. He said, "I am proud to be gay. I am proud to be a Republican," and the crowd gave a standing ovation. And then Trump enters the stage at the sound of Queen's song "We Are the Champions," the theme song of the sodomite community to this day.

So what does God think about America? What does God say about nations? When they reject God and reject His Word, reject God as the Creator and Redeemer and do not want to retain His Word in their mind, God will give them over to uncleanness and vile affections, and according to 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 and 11, those who are involved in uncleanness and vile affections shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. I'm okay with a good economy, but a good economy and their 401(k) and their investments is more important to most Christians than what God has said in His Holy Word, and somebody needs to say something about this so some might come to repentance.

So it doesn't matter what anybody thinks. What does God think? What has God said in His Word? What is God's view of America today? What is God's view of this president whose picture I'm holding up? In other words, have we misinterpreted the Scripture or has he misinterpreted the Scripture?

God gave them over to a reprobate mind (spiritual madness)

Verse 28 in Romans chapter 1 says, "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Here's our third and last point. God gave them over to a reprobate mind, which is spiritual madness. We could actually also title it "sexual madness," but I used "spiritual madness" because there's more here than just sexual sins. But verse 28 begins with, "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge..." Why does God abandon them? Because they abandoned God first. God never gives people up unless they give Him up, unless they abandon Him first, His Word, His truth, His gospel, and His salvation. So God gave them up to a reprobate mind. That is a mind that is void of judgment. That is a mind that has been abandoned by God. And let me tell you something. One of the worst judgments of God upon humanity is that God just leaves you to yourself. He doesn't speak to you. He doesn't deal with you. He doesn't listen to you. I mean, that's one of the worst places that you can be.

Those who are given over to a reprobate mind are at the point of no return, beyond hope, disapproved, condemned, depraved. It's over for those who are given over to a reprobate mind. Ephesians 4:17 through 19 mentions past feeling, alienated from God and a darkened heart. In 2 Thessalonians 2, verses 10 and 11, they received not the truth, so God sent them strong delusion. Why? So that they would believe a lie and be damned. Matthew 12, verses 43 through 45, declares the last state of man, especially when he rebels against God. In John 12, verse 40, God blinded

the eyes of individuals and hardened their hearts. Why? Because they abandoned God. Proverbs chapter 29, verse 1, says, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Now, that's what happened with Israel in 2 Chronicles 36:16. There was no more remedy for their sin, and God led them into captivity for 70 years. Examples of those who God gave over to a reprobate mind are Cain, Pharaoh, Balaam, Judas Iscariot, Ahab and Jezebel, and many others that we see in the Scripture.

Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" And then verses 24, 25, and 26 speak of judgment upon those individuals. Now, think about this. To say that uncleanness or sodomy is okay and acceptable is calling evil good.

Proverbs chapter 28, verse 4, says, "They that forsake the law praise the wicked..." How many presidents have forsaken God's law? How many congressmen and senators have forsaken God's law? How many people sitting in pews in churches have forsaken God's law? If you praise anything that's wicked and wrong, you've forsaken God's law. Proverbs 28:4 says, "They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them." Those who keep God's law contend for the faith. And Proverbs 28:9 says, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination."

One other passage. I think this passage sums it up as well. Proverbs 17:15, "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just..." Who's condemned today in our society? It's usually the Christian. Who's justified? Proverbs 17:15 goes on to say, "...even they both *are* abomination to the LORD." Those who justify the wicked and condemn the just are both an abomination to the Lord. Now, again, if we lose sight of this and we start looking at the society, our feelings can change and we can become sympathetic and start accusing people of hate speech for speaking the things of God.

Now, notice back in the book of Romans in chapter 1. Let's read verse 28 again: "And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient," that is, to do those things which are not fitting, proper, or right. And then in verses 29 through 32 there is a selective list of about 23 sins that describe the reprobate lifestyle, and every sin is connected with rejecting God's Word. Beginning in verse 29, it says, "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful," and verse 32 says that those who commit such things are worthy of death and judgment. When we look at this list from verses 29 to 32, do you reckon we're too general with sin and not enough convictions? God just names the sins. Who names sin anymore in our society? Many rename them. We just

get too general with sin, but God mentions fornication and adultery, uncleanness, vile affections. He mentions covetousness and backbiters and haters of God and despisers and disobedient to parents, covenant breakers, and on and on. God says that these are worthy of death and judgment.

We get so general in our speech and don't want to offend anybody. But let me tell you something. When I look at Romans 1 and the uncleanness, the sexual immorality in our nation, the vile affections, the transgender stupidity that we see today — I mean, this is absolute stupidity and wickedness and out of the lowest hell if there are levels in hell. It's spiritual madness. They can't think right, can't respond correctly. Thinking scripturally is out of the question for many because they don't know what the Bible says, and it's possible that many of them have a reprobate mind. They've been given up to uncleanness, given up to vile affections, many of them given over to a reprobate mind. And verse 32 says, "[Who knowing the judgment of God](#)" — they know the judgment of God — "[that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.](#)" They know what they're doing and take pleasure in evil, and they not only participate in the evil, but they approve of it and applaud it. Or they may not be committing these kinds of sins but will applaud it in others, so they're just as wicked. They continue in their practice, and they deserve the judgment and wrath of God Almighty. People need to fear being given up by God. They need to fear not retaining God in their knowledge and not responding to His truth.

Verse 1 of Romans chapter 1 says, "[Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,](#)" and Paul mentions this gospel throughout this chapter and this book, and he tells us in verses 3 and 4, "[Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead,](#)" and, again, he speaks of their faith. But in verses 16 and 17 he says, "[For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For therein](#)" — that is, in the gospel — "[is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.](#)" And then in verses 18 through 32 Paul mentions the wrath of God and giving up on people. You see, the gospel is the only hope for humanity. The truth of God's Word is the only hope. Romans 2:16 says, "[In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.](#)" Chapter 10 also speaks of this, and chapter 16, beginning with verse 25 says, "[Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: ²⁷To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.](#)"

This gospel is the only hope and the only power that can deliver anyone out of this kind of mindset. And, again, I want you to understand that the uncleanness, the vile affections, the reprobate mind all began with worshiping the wrong thing. Again, you can worship false gods or worship the true God in a false way, or you can have idols in your heart. Putting other things above God is a false worship. It's idolatry. So it all starts with idolatry and apostasy — in other words, not wanting to believe and follow God's Word. And this doesn't just happen overnight. It's a process. So when someone decides he's not going to believe God and follow God's Word, these are some of the end results.

Would you stand with me this morning.

Father we thank Thee for this day, for Thy love and Thy mercy. And, Lord, help us to think biblically. Lord, help us to realize this morning that the only hope for anyone is the gospel of Jesus Christ, that we surrender to that, submit to that, believe that. Lord, we see those with their sins in Revelation 9:21, that they repented not of their sins. And, Lord, help us to look through Thy Word, through the eyes that you've given us in Thy Word, to determine where we are as a nation and not by the things that are around us. Help us, Lord, to believe Your Word and trust it and follow it, for it's in Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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