

# The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart Pt 4

Pastor Jose Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

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*“And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. 2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh that he send the children of Israel out of his land. 3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. 6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they. 7 And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.” Exodus 7:1 – 7*

This morning we return to our New Series entitled “Against all the gods of Egypt,” or if you wish, “Against all the gods of this world.” In particular this series is on the Plagues of Egypt from chapters 7 to 12 of Exodus. This is part 4 of our introduction entitled, “The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart.” There are 5 things from my outline we are considering:

- I. **The Consequences of A Harden Heart.** (It's effects)
- II. **The Causes of A Harden Heart.** (God: Supernatural/Natural)
- III. **The Clarity of A Harden Heart.** (God is sovereign)
- IV. **The Conclusion of A Harden Heart.** (The glory of God)
- V. **The Cure of A Harden Heart.** (Conversion/Salvation [Ezek.36:26])

Under our first point: **I. The Consequences of a Harden Heart:**

We have seen that the consequences and or effects a harden heart in the life of Pharaoh was three-fold. From the very first meeting between Pharaoh and Moses in Ex.5:1 & 2, we saw this haughty and arrogant attitude of Pharaoh when Moses told him that God said, let my people go. *“And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”* Therefore, when Moses confronted Pharaoh, Pharaoh condescendingly mocked Moses and mocked God. He refuses to submit to God and so ensues the spiritual and physical battle between Pharaoh and Moses which we shall see in the 10 Plagues. In this obstinate rebellious attitude of Pharaoh we see 3 effects of a HARDENED HEART!

1. **The first effect of a hardened heart is a WILLFUL DEFIANCE not to hear:** Exodus 8:15, *“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”* One of the awful effects of a hardened heart is the willingness not to hear, that is, the willingness to defy God and not to hearken or listen unto God.
2. **The second effect of a hardened heart is found in WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE**

**not to obey God: Exodus 8:32.** “*And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.*” The second effect of a **harden heart is disobedience**, that is; they will NOT OBEY the word of God.

**3. The third effect of a hardened heart is seen in WILLFUL DEPRAVITY: Exodus 9:34,** “*And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.*” This is the end result of not hearing God’s word, of not obeying God’s word, it leads to sinning yet more.

We have used Romans 1 to show the similarity of the heart of Pharaoh with those Paul has described here in Romans 1. Pharaoh was given clear revelation of the Living and True God but like many here in Romans 1 he suppressed the truth of God’s revelation, he suppressed his conscience and he suppressed creation and he worshipped the works of his own hands.

The end result is what we see in Romans 1:21-25, “*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. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 *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. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 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.*”*

Man in their wickedness like Pharaoh will reason out and rationalize their sins and show their awful foolishness by exchanging the truth about God for their own wisdom and their own philosophies by worshipping a god or gods of their imagination. Because they exchange the truth for a lie, truth is now just a relative term and thus they rationalize and excuse their sins so that evil becomes good in their eyes and that which is good becomes evil. When man rejects God’s 3-fold witness, they become wise in their own eyes, and now they become the judge of what is right and wrong and in their eyes there are no absolutes and therefore; sin is not what God says it is, sin is what they say it is. Thus the end result is that those who exchange the truth for a lie have such an ungrateful heart as they refuse to thank God and wind up degrading and dishonoring God by changing Him into His opposite. Proverbs 14:12 says, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*”

Sad, but true this is the end result of a person who hardens their hearts against God. It begins with a defiance of not willing to hear God’s word. Secondly, it becomes a willingness not to obey God and finally a wilful depravity that will go and sin yet more against the light God has given in this 3 fold witness, the fearful result is seen in the remainder of Romans 1.

Then we opened up our second point:

## II. The Causes of A Harden Heart. (God: Supernatural/Natural)

We have already established the point that that both God and Pharaoh himself hardened Pharaoh's heart. It was Supernatural, that is; God's SOVEREIGNTY over the matter in the hardening Pharaoh's heart, but we also see that naturally, because of Pharaoh's depravity, he hardened his own heart.

God hardened Pharaoh's heart with a holy judicial, penal hardness. 18 times we are told in the Book of Exodus about the hardening of Pharaoh's hearts and of the 18 times only 3 times does it say that Pharaoh hardened his own heart.

God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart is nothing more than the removal of His restraining grace and allowing Pharaoh to live in the corruption of his own heart. Many will rise up and cry unrighteousness or unfair. Romans 9 answers those accusations so clearly which we will see in our 3<sup>rd</sup> point, but oh my dear ones outside of Christ, you do not want God to deal with you in fairness, but in mercy. We read so clearly that there comes a time when God will give up sinners to themselves. This is what He did to Pharaoh and thus the warning of Romans 1 by Paul is fearful because God still gives up sinners over to a reprobate heart, that is, allows a sinner's heart to get harden to the things of God. Eph.4:18 & 19, "*Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*"

The word for blindness is the Greek word '*Porosis*' which basically means to harden so that it is rendered insensitive to feeling, it is a technical medical term that is used for the covering with a callous, that is a thick growth of skin. Paul is describing the hardness and callousness in the heart, the insensitive callous heart. It speaks again of that conscience that is seared with a hot iron, it is hardened. Verse 19 of Ephesians 4 says it all along with Romans 1, "*Who being past feeling have given themselves...*" To have a harden heart is to be callous, you have gone beyond feelings, the word of God, the preaching of the gospel nor you conscience bothers you anymore, what a sad state to be in. Remember it is a twofold hardening, supernatural and natural. Man can hardened their own hearts because sin also hardens the heart, Paul warns the nominal Christians in Hebrews 3:12 & 13, "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***"

Again, the simplest and best way to understand God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart is nothing more than the removal of His restraining grace and allowing Pharaoh to live in the corruption of his own heart. God allowed Pharaoh to do what he wanted to do, God did not make him sin or force him to sin, God just allowed him to follow the depravity and or debauchery of his own heart. Pharaoh's was already hardened against God, God removed

His restraining grace and we that the results are similar as those in Romans 1. When God removes His restraining grace He allows sinners to live walk and breathe in accordance to the passions and desires of their own hearts the results are clearly seen here in Romans 1.

Again, Romans 1:26-2:2, *“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 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, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 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; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing 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 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.”*

We will pick up in verse 26 from last week, again “For this cause...” is made up of two words in the Greek, **“Dia touto”** which basically means for this purpose or for this reason and functions as a means in terms of conclusion. Their actions of suppressing the truth and exchanging the truth for a lie now works out in their lifestyle in such an aberrant and abominable conduct that the longsuffering of God will finally come to an end and He gives them up to their vile affections. This awful pattern of moral devolution results in wicked idolatry in the worshipping of their own selves which is associated with the practice of sexual immorality in all forms. Man is in love with their own will and freedom of choice and have sidestep God by professing themselves to be wise, but really have become fools, 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, but Paul makes sure that this effect is powerfully seen in the fact that they are without excuse! This worshipping of their own selves is the end result of the pervasive permeation of our American culture cemented in sensuality and sexual seduction. America has been given such great light that she is also without excuse before God as a nation.

These 3 fold witnesses of the commandments (word) of God, conscience and creation are also seen in the aspect of the mercy of God because our Great God was pleased to provide for sinners a glorious MERCYSEAT in the Person of His beloved Son Jesus Christ. In Luke 1:78, *“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high **hath visited us.**”* He did in the Person of Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 2:17 it says, *“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be **a merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”* Then in Hebrews 8:12 it says, *“For **I will be merciful** to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”* God extends mercy to all sinners, but the warning of Jonah 2:8 is, *“They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy,”* resonates loudly because when a sinner forsakes their own mercies for lying vanities as we see in Romans 1, they open themselves up to the righteousness of God’s wrath.

You see before God brought judgment on Pharaoh He warned him first and God warns us first also before He brings forth any judgment and we see this merciful warning in Romans 1 especially when we have a God who delights in mercy, Micah 7:18, *“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.”* We never read anywhere in Scripture that our Great God delights in judgment or that He delights in punishment or that He delights in the death of the wicked, on but thanks be to GOD that we READ HE DELIGHTETH IN MERCY! Not only does God delight in mercy but is plenteous in mercy and ready to forgive as we see in Psalms 86:5, *“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”* In Psalms 86:13 David continues, *“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”*

One of my favorites passages in the Bible in is Eph.2:1-4, *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.”*

In Habakkuk 3:2 it says, *“O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”* But oh my dear ones, don't close your ears in willful defiance against the gospel and don't disobey the gospel in a willful disobedience because it will lead to a willful depravity to go out and sin yet more as seen here in Romans 1. When God extends His mercy oh my dear ones outside of Christ, do not forsake it. I think of Paul who was a murderer, a persecutor and blasphemer, but by God's grace he obtained mercy. 1 Timothy 1:13 & 16, *“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”*

We have a God who extents mercy freely to all those that come to Him in repentance and faith. Come this morning as it says in Joel 2:13, *“And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”* Notice how mercy and hope go hand in hand:

1 Peter 1:3, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* Psalms 33:18 & 22, *“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”* In Ps130: 3-8, *“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. 6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. 7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: **for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.** 8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”*

Psalms 145:8, *“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.”* In

Psalms 147:11, *“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”* The Lord does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked, but oh my LORD takes great pleasure in delighting and bestowing mercy. Even in Romans 9 where we see the Sovereignty of God, is the mercy of God seen in His outworking of His purpose in the decree of predestination and election, notice that 6 times the mercy of God is mentioned in verses 15-23, *“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.”*

But if you forsake God mercy for lying vanities then you might open yourself up to the righteousness of God’s wrath.

Remember it says in Romans 1:26-28, *“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 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, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 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.”*

They forsook the mercy of God and laid hold of lying vanities, therefore God gave them up or God gave them over, in the Greek it speaks of literally handing someone over to the power and or authority of another. In other words God handed them over to their passion and lusts without restrain and thus they have become slaves to their passion and lusts. The phrase, *“God gave them up...”* should bring fear in the hearts and minds of those yet outside Christ. The problem is just like Pharaohs, you might be convicted once in a while, but you are NOT CONVINCED and therefore you go out and sin YET MORE! It’s one thing to be deceived by others, to be deceived by Satan and to be deceived by sin, but when you are SELF-DECEIVED, you have no clue as to the power of sin over you. Sin is powerful even over the will of man. I find it amazing that people make such a fuss and so much noise about their will being free, if they only knew how much in bondage is the will to sin, which does not make it free. My wife and I saw the movie, “The GIVER,” a quote from the movie goes something like this, *“When people have freedom to choose, they choose wrong all the time.”* In all reality the true GIVER is God, because *“For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* God GAVE His Son for us! But as Christ clearly showed in the same text in John 3, the problem with man is that they love their sins, they love darkness rather than light and sad result is seen here in Romans 1.

John MacArthur explains God's giving...over by writing that... *“God’s giving over sinful mankind has a dual sense. First, in an indirect sense God gave them over simply by withdrawing His restraining and protective hand, allowing the consequences of sin to take their inevitable, destructive course. Sin degrades man, debases the image of God in which he is made, and strips him of dignity, peace of mind, and a clear conscience. Sin destroys personal relationships, marriages, families, cities, and nations It also destroys churches... Fallen men are not concerned about their sin but only about the pain from the unpleasant consequences sin brings. (cp Pr 28:13, Gal 6:7, 8) Someone has well said that sin would have fewer takers if the consequences were immediate...In*

a second, direct sense God gave...over rebellious mankind by specific acts of judgment. The Bible is replete with accounts of divine wrath being directly and supernaturally poured out on sinful men. The flood of Noah's day (Ge 6:5, 6, 7, 17ff) and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Ge 18:20, 19:24,25, 26), for example, were not indirect natural consequences of sin but were overt supernatural expressions of God's judgment on gross and unrepented sin. God often allows men to go deeper and deeper into sin in order to drive them to despair and to show them their need of Him." May God be please to drive you to despair and cause you to show your need of mercy, and salvation!

It says God gave them up to 'Vile Affections." The word vile is the Greek word, '**atimia**' which means without honor or respect, the opposite of this word would be to have shame or to be dishonor, but this word means they flaunted their sins without shame. (Ezra 9:6 with Jer. 6:15 & 8:12) The word vile is the strongest word to describe depravity or filth and to think, God gave them up to their VILE affections, not just to their affection, but to VILE AFFECTIONS! The basic original meaning was that Paul was describing the state of the pagan world, but what he is describing to us in this 21<sup>st</sup> century is AMERICA!

The Greek word for affections is '**Pathos**' which means passions and desires, excited emotions with uncontrollable desires which finally become overpowering urges.

From Precept Austin web page, it defines passions as, "**A passion is a drive or force that does not rest until satisfied. These are internal desires (emanating from our fallen sin nature) cause the victim to suffer and that have to be satisfied or they drive you crazy. A passion describes intense emotion compelling action; intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction; ardent affection; sexual desire or an emotion that is deeply stirring or ungovernable. The word "desires" (when used as noun as in the present context) means to have a longing for and stresses the strength of feeling and often implies strong intention or aim; conscious impulse toward something that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment.**"

In verses 26-28 these degrading vile affections are described and identified as homosexuality, "*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 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, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 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.*" I want you to know, that I don't hate homosexuals. I totally disagree with their lifestyle as I disagree with the lifestyle of an adulterer or fornicator, it doesn't means I hate adulterers or fornicators, I don't condone their lifestyle, but I don't treat them or homosexuals any different than any other human being. If I go to a restaurant and my waiter is homosexual, I treat them with respect and kindness and leave a tip. We use to have a lesbian visit our church and when she needed help the church helped her with her electric bill on more than one occasion and multiple times I went and got groceries for her paid for them and delivered them and put them up for her. I would hug her when I left and exchanged pleasantries with her. I think it is a bad testimony to look down and condemned any human being in an awful self-righteous attitude, regardless of their sins, we must show mercy to others if mercy has been extended to us by God, remember the words of Christ, "...what do ye more?" Then of course the words of Micah 6:8, "*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*" Now, understand me

clearly I totally do not condone the homosexual lifestyle, it is wrong, it is sin and it goes against nature according to Scripture and this I know, that except for the grace of God there go I. I live by real a simple saying, "If I am going to err, let me err in mercy, because you can never go wrong with mercy. Even in the same sentence of what do you more, Christ also said, "Love your enemies!" Notice again the word of Paul here in Romans 1, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use **into that which is against nature**: 27 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, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 **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.**" Please beware, you don't have to be a homosexual for God to harden your heart against Him. After this clear teaching against the sin of homosexuality, Paul at verse 29 gives list of other sins that shows their vile affections, *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:* 32 *Who knowing 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 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things."*

The phrase being filled is the Greek word, '**Pleroo**' which means to be filled in totality, all the way full. It also means to permeate to its fullness to the point of being controlled. As one writer puts it, "This denotes the whole laundry list of sins covered in the entire gamut of life, being the family, marriage, the workplace even the church. No area or life is left unaffected." This word also means to be carried away by its fullness, in other words, whatever sin that is it has you under its control which totally dominates you in your thoughts and actions. This phrase 'being filled,' is also in the perfect tense in the Greek which speaks of being full and remaining in that state, being totally controlled by its lusts and passions. It means to be completely filled and totally permeated and controlled by that sin, whatever sin it is. Perhaps the application here are the words God gave to Noah before He brought the world wide flood in Genesis 6:5, "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The imagination and thoughts of their hearts being filled to the fullness that there was only evil continually.

- One writer says, "You can mark it down...**Apathy** leads to **apostasy** which brings **moral anarchy**. Just look at America in the twenty first century. We see this same pattern of **idolatry** leading to **immorality** which leads to **internal strife** in the book of Judges, especial the horrible description of men doing what is right in their own eyes in **Judges 17-21**)."
- Robert Haldane says this in his commentary of Romans, "...that **being filled**...signifies that the vices here exposed were not tempered with virtues, but were alone and uncontrolled, occupying the mind and heart even to overflowing."
- Charles Hodge, "What Paul says about the ancient heathen world is true in all its essential features of men in all generations. Wherever men have existed, there have they shown themselves to be sinners, ungodly and unrighteous, and therefore justly exposed to the wrath of God."
- One writer says, "Reject God, suppress God, distort God, recreate God in your own image to



*your own liking, and the effect is worse than we expect. And the thing that is worse than we expect is that God joins our crusade against God, as it were, and delivers us into the debasing effects of our own rebellion against him."*

What a sad commentary against all sinners who suppress the truth and try to sidestep God by willfully walking in disobedience to the gospel will go out and sit yet more in being filled with all unrighteousness and so forth. It says will ALL not some but with all UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, that is, with no exceptions, each one of these sinful actions is as it were filled to the brim. I do not have the time to deal with each sin mentioned, it is again but a sad commentary describing the wicked hearts of men and women who have turn against God and God has turned against them also, giving them over to be filled will all wickedness and unrighteousness without any *type* of bridles or restrain. Being filled with all unrighteousness that is doing injustice, doing wrong, doing violence. Interesting that this Greek word for unrighteousness, '**Adikia, (a=not + dike=right)**' the condition of not being right is used in the Septuagint and notice closely how it is used in Genesis 6 (violence) with the preface of the same word filled in Gen.6:11 - 13, "*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth **was filled with violence** {Filled with unrighteousness}. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is **filled with violence** through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."*

Reprobate philosopher **Nietzsche** was totally wrong when he declared that "might makes right" a phrase that Hitler used in his extermination of the Jews in WW2. God is the only one who makes right and it is only His standard that is acceptable as being perfect. Everything else in man is "not right" but is in fact unrighteous and no amount of men's "might" can make it "right" because in 1 John 5:17 it says, "*All unrighteousness is sin...*" Then of course the list continues, "*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness {**A desire to hurt other physically or verbally; wicked depravity**} full of envy, murder, debate {**Contention, strive, always wants to argue**}, deceit, malignity {**Bad character, malicious craftiness**}; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable {Cannot agree on anything}, **unmerciful**." Then as though Paul save a big one for the last sin mentioned, UNMERCIFUL, remember we are to LOVE MERCY, an unmerciful person is the scum of the earth, that is, cannot be nice to anybody always mean and ugly and always justifying themselves for their actions. I want to make a point about the subject of homosexuals I was discussing earlier.*

You might be right about your stance against homosexuality, but if you are condescending and mean and hateful to them, sorry to inform you, you're in this group Paul mentions here, notice the last sin mentioned which could be the sin that damns most people to hell, UNMERCIFUL, Pharaoh was UNMERCIFUL, you'll wind up in the same place Pharaoh did in hell if you live and die with an UNMERCIFUL HEART! It does not mean you condone their sin, but it doesn't give you the right to mistreat them and be hateful and unmerciful to them.

We already mentioned many verses on mercy, if God has extended mercy to you, you better show mercy to others, Matthew 5:7, “*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*”

What an awful description again in Romans 1 of what is in a sinner’s heart and worst is the fact that if sinners seek to suppress the truth of God and continue in their obstinate rebellion against God, the end result is frightening, that God would just turn you over to your depravity.

Thus, Paul concludes Romans 1 by naming all kinds of sins where the end result is man is without excuse. “*32 Who knowing 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. 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*”

Like Pharaoh who knowing the judgment of God these here in Romans 1 continued in their sins and have pleasure in committing them. Then Romans 2:1 hits the essence of our responsibility to God, “*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man...*” Paul continues in Romans 2:4-6, “*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds.*”

Again in Exodus 5:1 & 2, “*And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 2 And Pharaoh said, **Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice** to let Israel go? **I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.**” He proudly says **Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?** Then he confesses his true heart by saying I KNOW NOT THE LORD! Then in an egotistical proud attitude says I WILL NOT LET ISRAEL GO, likewise the sinner says, who is the Lord that I should obey His voice? I know not the Lord and NEITHER WILL I LET MY SINS GO!*

What about you this morning, has God shown you your sins, will you be willing this day to turn from your sins and serve the Living and True GOD? Or will you say, I WILL NOT LET MY SINS GO!

May our Great God be pleased to TAKE YOU, SHAKE YOU, BREAK YOU and MAKE YOU a NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST! Call out to God this morning God is in the business of forgiving and pardoning of SINS, as a MATTER of FACT HE DELIGHT IN PARDONING and says COMPASSIONATELY: THUS SAITH the LORD: “*...Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*”

God has POWER over sin; HE can break the POWER and BONDAGE of SIN, come,

come to HIM this morning do not hesitate any more, come even NOW because you are without excuse! "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John1:7.

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Isaiah 55:6 & 7, "*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*"

LET'S PRAY: