

Romans 1:24-32 – Result of Being Cursed: God Gives You Up

Rienecker, TSK, Steele, Gaebelin, JFB, Handfuls, Spurgeon, Handfuls, Geneva, Family, Expositor, PNT, Poole, Robertson, Henry, Calvin, INT, Gill Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: God identified the reasons for his severe judgment on the Gentiles: **They knew the Creator but rejected the Creator and embraced and worshipped the creature instead.** God, being holy and just, had to act. God acted in a decisive way. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Man became perverted and committed sexual sins

Man became worse in all other sins

Our goals are: **That you will see that without Christ, the Gentiles have no righteousness and are therefore left to their sinful whims and self-destructive ways.**

Man became perverted and committed sexual sins

24 Therefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, **who is blessed forever**. Amen.

1. The results of being cursed and having God's judgment set on men is that men became more and more spiritually unclean.

Lusts dominated them because **"God gave them up."** This is a refrain of judgment in the Scriptures. Men abandoned God, so God abandoned men. He stopped restraining their sins as he did before. He even did this to the Jews.

Psalms 81:12 So **I gave them over to their own stubborn heart**, To walk in their own counsels.

Acts 7:42 "Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?'"

Of course God still limits man to some degree as he must restrain the greatest excesses for his children's sake.

2. After God gave the Gentiles up to sin, they started to dishonor their bodies with each other.

(These are the ones who worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator. They exchanged God's truth about his holiness, of man's sinfulness, and the work of Christ on the cross for a lie – for their own gospel.)

(By the way, when God gave them up to uncleanness God was still maintaining his purity and is rightly described as blessed.)

But why are sexual sins a distinct category when there is a long list below? This is because it is most personal. What man does with his own body reflects more deeply what's in his heart. A man, for instance, would avoid touching a hot stove so he wouldn't be burned, or would avoid drinking poison as it would kill his body. **But here, men knew their sin was wrong and deadly to their own bodies and they still did it.** This is why it is remarkable. The body that should have been a temple of God became the center of worship of perversion. Instead, these wicked men and women celebrated their perversion.

Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.

26 For this reason **God gave them up** to vile passions. For even their **women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature**. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, **men with men committing what is shameful**, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

3. After God gave them up to sin women developed vile passions, becoming homosexuals, and "burned in lust for each other."

Their feelings were literally "set on fire."

Women who are described as precious treasures, jewels, and the desirable sex, brought themselves low in corruption and brought others low with them.

Men also joined in to do what was shameless, doing what should not even be mentioned among people.

2 Peter 2:14 **having eyes full of adultery** and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

What rebelliousness this was against a holy God!

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over** to a debased mind, to do those **things which are not fitting**;

4. Gentile men and women started having debased minds which caused them to do that which was corrupted.

"Things not fitting" is a euphemism. It means "doing the most disgusting things."

Ephesians 4:19 who, **being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness**, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

5. Apostle Paul mentioned 3 times (Verse 24, 26, 28) that God gave them up to their sins, showing certainty.

They were *tried by God and found wanting*...so they were given over to their own destruction.

6. Lessons 8:

a. God does not make anyone sin. He is holy. He doesn't induce people to sin. Man sins of his own deliberate free will and brings judgment on himself. He pollutes God's temple, the body, by his own lusts. *You can't blame the doctor if the patient refuses the good medicines and gets sicker.*

b. One of the worst punishment God can give a sinner is to abandon him to do what he wants. That is, in fact, the *beginning of his hellish suffering that is coming.*

c. God gives men up to sin, but notice I didn't say, "God gives up on you." God doesn't. It doesn't matter how far someone has fallen into sexual immorality, God can bring him out.

d. Don't treat those who have fallen in deep sexual immorality as beyond the reach of God. Don't give up on them. God doesn't. They can come out!

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

e. Don't ever think man's sins is because of his environment or society! It is because of his sinful nature and his desire to rebel against God. Don't follow society's lies.

f. Not all religions are good! Only one is good. Those who worship animals or other gods are serving a false religion. Those who worship pleasures (sexuality, sports, exercise) are also in false religions.

g. Those who are homosexuals are refusing to multiply – a command.

h. I hope you understand why so-called transgendered people enjoy parading in public and they then want to start to recruit kindergarteners to join them. I believe they are groomers. They get pleasure seeing others do the same thing as they. After all, why won't they read to old people or the handicapped?

Man Became Worse in all other sins

29 **being filled** with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

1. Man became filled with all kinds unrighteous actions, not only of their sexual sins!

Someone said that unrighteousness is the *spring from which all the rivers of wickedness flow.*

2. What are some of those sins with which man is filled, though this is not an exhaustive list?

Wickedness – the word **refers to wickedness in general**, and really is the beginning of the next list.

a. **Covetousness** – the desiring to have what does not belong to them.

b. **Maliciousness** – having ill-will with a desire to injure.

c. **Envy** – this is like covetousness and maliciousness joined together.

d. **Murder** – the illicit taking of human life.

e. **Strife** – wrangling, fight.

f. **Deceit** – cunning.

g. **Evil-mindedness** – treachery.

h. **Whisperers** – to pour poison in another person's ear.

i. **Backbiters** – those who practice malice or slander.

j. **Haters of God** – despising God for who he is and what he does.

k. **Violent** - insolence and contempt of others. Cruelty.

l. **Proud** – to set one's own heart on a pedestal.

m. **Boasters** – the one who makes empty boasts and false promises.

- n. **Inventors of evil things** – learning new ways to do evil.
 - o. **Disobedient to parents** – covering dishonoring of all kinds of parents.
 - p. **Undiscerning** – referring to those who are stupid or ignorant of dangers.
 - q. **Untrustworthy** - a covenant breaker.
 - r. **Unloving** - without tenderness or the lacking of natural feeling, like that of a mother to her child or a child who ignores his parents.
 - s. **Unforgiving** – a strange word meaning “without a covenant,” or doesn’t want to make a covenant.
 - t. **Unmerciful** - being without pity, merciless, implacable.
- The entire 2nd table of the law is covered here.

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are **deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**

3. Gentiles were filled with these sins and are under the condemnation of death and deserve condemnation to death.

Not only do these perverted people do these things and get pleasure from them, **but they get pleasure from seeing others do the same thing and they.**

4. Lessons 4:

a. If you see perverted sexual immorality it is easy to treat that sin with disdain, but your disdain must not be limited to the sins you find most offensive. God finds many other sins offensive that **you might think** are lesser sins. **God gives over some to those sins also...**including gossip! Yes, gossip!

b. All other means that have ever been tried to make men into better beings have failed and will continue to fail. For example: Those who think that **if the government redistributes wealth the world would be better are living in a fantasy world.** Only the Gospel brings forgiveness and hope to mankind.

c. God is not a weak God who is desperate for the affections of men. He fairly and without fail sends the wicked to hell for their sins. He does not need you!

d. When one truly knows God he is no longer involved in self-worship, but Trinitarian worship.

Conclusion:

Man made the worse exchange in human history and gave up worshipping the true and living God and started to worship the things God made. What a travesty! **So God gave man up to his own sins and did man ever sin!** He started with sexual perversion, the most personal of all sins as they are sins against man’s own body. And then God handed man over to all other kinds of sins, sins which would ultimately bring eternal judgment on him.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus:

1. When you were in your perverted lifestyle and you were left there to see the wretchedness of your human condition, Christ did not give up on you. He gave you over for a time, but he never gave up on you. This is why Apostle Paul told the Corinthians to give over the adulterer to the Devil so he could be beaten up, but he didn’t give up on the adulterer. That man was restored! He said the same of Hymenaeus and Alexander.

2. Take time to see if you are selling yourself over to any of these sins, keeping in mind they could be so-called “clean” sins or sins you can’t see on the outside, but sins that are deadly nonetheless. (You know the law and you know the penalty.) And then ask God to restore you to himself.

3. Help those who are still in that place to which they were given over...of hopelessness and offer them the hope that only Jesus can give.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, run from your condition. You don’t have the power of life. You will only bear death. Run to Christ. Get to know him. He is the only hope of the world. He took death for sinners.