

EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

Message #7

Romans 1:24-32

So far in Romans Paul has revealed that God's righteousness demands His wrath and that God is perfectly just in pouring out his wrath because all humans deserve it because they have done depraved and horrible things mentally and spiritually that merit it.

So far Paul has developed at least eight reasons why all people deserve God's wrath:

- 1) They have knowledge of God and suppress the truth in their pursuit of ungodliness. **1:18**
- 2) They have knowledge of God within them and are without excuse. **1:19-20**
- 3) They have knowledge of God and do not honor God. **1:21a**
- 4) They have knowledge of God and are not thankful to God **1:21b**
- 5) They have knowledge of God and invent futile speculations about God. **1:21c**
- 6) They have knowledge of God and have darkened their foolish hearts against God. **1:21d**
- 7) They have knowledge of God but rely on their own moronic knowledge. **1:22**
- 8) They have knowledge of God and have changed the glory of God to whatever they want. **1:23**

As we come to this section of Romans, Paul takes it even further and develops this point man's depravity and he takes it to another level.

The verses here are some of the most fearful verses and scariest verses in the Bible. **These verses not only establish that God is just in pouring out His wrath on people but He is also perfectly just in making a judicial decision to abandon people and send them to hell.**

In other words, Paul says because of the depravity of humans, God can legitimately make a righteous decision not to save someone and actually decide to condemn someone to wrath and there is not one thing that person can do to prevent it or stop it.

You will carefully observe that three times in this section we read the words "God gave them over" or "God gave them up." (1:24,26,28).

The verb "gave over" (paredwken) speaks of a judicial abandonment. This particular verb was used of a person who had the authority to commit or deliver someone over to prison or judgment (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p.339). This verb is aorist, active, and indicative. God is saying there is a point or moment of time (aorist tense) when I cause the action (active voice) of condemning a person to eternal condemnation and it is a guaranteed fact that cannot be changed (indicative mood).

This is more than just a passive permission of letting the person go his or her own way. This would require a passive verb. This is more than just a non-preventative non-restraint. This is an active, judicial act and decision of God in which He makes a judgment to withdraw His restraint, protection and Grace and pronounces a judgment on a nation or individual that says "I am giving you up and you are now heading to My condemnatory wrath and there is nothing you can do to stop it." "I am pushing you into condemnation." This is My judicial judgment against you.

Because the verb “God gave them over” occurs three times, we conclude this is the “dominant theme” and it breaks the text down into three main abandonment themes:

ABANDONMENT THEME #1- God abandons people because of their pursuit of sexual lusts.
1:24-25

Most people do not realize the danger that exists when it comes to pursuing sexual lusts. Lustful, sexual immoral things start in the heart and mind. The possibility of being judged by God to death sentence for sexual immorality is something found in both the O.T. and the N.T.

It was found in the O.T. law in Leviticus 20:10-26 and it is also found in the N.T. church when Jesus addressed the church of Thyatira and promised to execute people who were immoral (Revelation 2:20-23).

It is possible for God to hand a person over to their lusts to the point that they cannot stop it. They persist in doing that which is irrational and dishonorable. **So what God actually does is not only does He say in His word that He will condemn this person, He actually decrees that they persist in their sin showing they deserve His condemnation.**

When God sees people dominated by lusts, He is not just an “idle spectator.” He will sovereignly ordain that the lust crazed maniac ends up doing dishonorable things with his or her own body.

Verse 25 says these people did not respond to God’s truth and they did not worship God, they worshipped their own sexual lusts and believed lies that a good life was a lust fulfilling life rather than a relationship with God. So God gave them over to that lifestyle and once they have come to the end of their lives, they will go to hell and experience His wrath.

If you are given over to lusts, you cannot worship God. You are worshipping yourself and your immoral lusts and don’t really care what God’s word says.

We are living in a lust crazed world. We are living in a lust crazed country:

- 1) 20 million STD’s per year and 10 million are ages 15-24
- 2) 4543 Adult bookstores in US and have increased 1.1% in 2022 over 2021
- 3) There are 4 million porn sites on the internet in this country,
- 4) 68 million Americans look at porn sites every day.
- 5) 68% of Divorce cases are due to one mate being addicted to pornography.

We are living in such a lust crazed nation that people get mad and hateful if you tell them it is not right to get an abortion after they have gone out and been involved in immoral behavior.

We live in a country that accepts all forms of adultery and promotes any type of sexual perversion that exists. We are a lust crazed nation and what we are actually witnessing displays the fact that God is abandoning us and is sentencing us to His wrath.

Dr. Jennings Bryant analyzed the effects of a lust crazed person or nation and said there are seven negative results: (*The Josh McDowell Research Almanac and Statistical Digest*, pp.233-235)

- 1) You lose your ability to make moral judgments- you lose your sense of right and wrong; your sense of justice, righteousness and fairness. You defend things you should condemn. You lose your moral compass.
- 2) You lose your ability to trust and be trusted. Lust crazed people are not reliable, dependable People. You cannot lean on or trust in a lust crazed person. They are sporadic, unpredictable and unstable.
- 3) You lose your ability to function in the right role in your family. One given to immoral lusts Cannot properly relate to a mate or children. Oft times they neglect responsibilities Because they are so consumed by lusts. Often a parent will let children or a mate do what They want without proper direction. He is covering a secret life and does not call Right-right and wrong wrong.
- 4) You lose your ability to maintain a commitment. Some of the most unstable people one will Ever meet in any relationship are lust crazed people. They are unsocial, irrational and Emotional. They actually love their lusts more than anyone or anything.
- 5) You lose your ability to love. Love for a lust crazed person is twisted and distorted. True Biblical development of love is not possible for one consumed by lusts.
- 6) You lose your ability to be greatly used by God. God's Spirit will not and cannot greatly use A dirty, unclean vessel. No matter what the religious involvement, God's Spirit is not In itl.
- 7) You risk being abandoned by God. God may never let a person get out of their lusts. If The person is not a believer, God can give you up to hell. If the person is a believer, God can give you up to ignorance, weakness, sickness and death that will cost you His blessings and rewards.

If you are one given to lusts, deal with it today because if you don't God can give you up to it.

ABANDONMENT THEME #2- God abandons people because of their unnatural homosexuality. **1:26-27**

No matter what people say about homosexuality and lesbianism, it is not normal and it is not natural and it is sinful and evil. People who think it is normal and natural are displaying the fact that God has given them up and sentenced them to hell. Back in 1983, J. Vernon McGee said many churches are promoting this sexual perversion instead of condemning it.

We want to be as Biblically clear and as accurate as we can when it comes to this subject:
God's view of homosexuality is that it is a degrading, abnormal passion and perversion that will bring the wrath of God and the abandonment of God to a nation, a state, a city and an individual.

From God's perspective, homosexuality is a vile unnatural sin. It is normal for a man to be sexually drawn to a woman and for a woman to be sexually drawn to a man. It is abnormal and immoral and unnatural for a man to be sexually drawn to another man or for a woman to be drawn to another woman.

God views this as evil and detestable. It is an abomination in His sight (Lev.20:13). Those who pursue this deserve the wrath of God and they will receive it. They are heading to eternal damnation and the fact that they publicly flaunt their sin proves they are heading to hell.

God says at the end of **verse 27** that the "due penalty" for this abominable sin is the abandonment of God.

When Paul wrote this book of Romans in AD 57-58, homosexuality was prevalent and flaunted by the Greeks and the Romans. Fourteen of the first fifteen Roman Emperors were homosexuals, including Nero. Furthermore, according to Dr. Cranfield in his research, some considered this sexual perversion to be superior to that of a relationship between a man and woman (*Romans*, pp.35-36)

We are living at a time when we see a flaunting and promoting of same sex relationships as if this is just as good as a man and woman relationship. This is an abomination before God and an indication that God is in the process of giving us up.

From this text we may draw four Biblical conclusions concerning homosexuality:

- 1) Homosexuality is against and opposite of the natural inborn passion God has placed within every male and female. Homosexuals are made by choice, not born by birth.
- 2) Homosexuality is a vile, depraved and degrading sin in the sight of God. God does not Classify this as an alternative lifestyle; but an abominable sin.
- 3) When homosexuality is publicly flaunted it demonstrates God has abandoned the person. That person is heading to the condemnatory wrath of God.
- 4) The only hope for a homosexual is to come to the cross of Jesus Christ. He can and will save Any sinner who comes to Him, including homosexuals (I Cor.6:9-11)

ABANDONMENT THEME #3- God abandons people because of their mental depravity.
1:28-32

God does not just abandon people to their lusts and homosexuality, but also He abandons people to their mental and moral depravity. The words "depraved mind" (**v.28**) refer to a mind that is useless in the sight of God. One commentator said if God abandons your mind, you are doomed. It is the most fearful type of abandonment there is. What is described in these verses are things that can dominate and control a mind:

A mind not capable of anything good is capable of all kinds of things bad. The participle “filled” means God literally abandons people minds and lets those minds be filled to capacity with the things on this vice list:

John Chrysostom said “people are not just wicked: they are full of wickedness, and thus wickedness is extensive.” (Cited from Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*, p.107).

There are 21 things on the list that display the depraved mind:

The first four on the list (unrighteousness-evil) describe a filling of the mind with general sin. The next five on the list (envy-malice) uses different adjective “full” extensive specific sin. The next twelve in the list (gossip-untrustworthy) describe sin against others and within self.

- 1) A depraved mind produces a life filled with unrighteousness. **1:29a**
- 2) A depraved mind produces a life filled with wickedness. **1:29b**
- 3) A depraved mind produces a life filled with greed. **1:29c**
- 4) A depraved mind produces a life filled with evil. **1:29d**
- 5) A depraved mind produces a life filled with envy. **1:29e**
- 6) A depraved mind produces a life filled with murder. **1:29f**
- 7) A depraved mind produces a life filled with strife. **1:29g**
- 8) A depraved mind produces a life filled with deceit. **1:29h**
- 9) A depraved mind produces a life filled with malice. **1:29i**
- 10) A depraved mind produces a mouth filled with gossip. **1:29j**
- 11) A depraved mind produces a mouth filled with slander. **1:30a**
- 12) A depraved mind produces a life filled with hate. **1:30b**
- 13) A depraved mind produces a life that is insolent. **1:30c**
- 14) A depraved mind produces a life that is arrogant. **1:30d**
- 15) A depraved mind produces a life that is boastful. **1:30e**
- 16) A depraved mind produces a mind that invents evil. **1:30f**
- 17) A depraved mind produces a life that is disobedient. **1:30g**

18) A depraved mind produces a life that is without understanding. **1:31a**

19) A depraved mind produces a person who is untrustworthy. **1:31b**

20) A depraved mind produces a person who is unloving. **1:31c**

21) A depraved mind produces a person who is unmerciful. **1:31d**

Where does this kind of mind come from that produces this? It comes from suppressing the truth of God to the point where God gives the person up.

Now after having developed this theme of God giving people up Paul makes three statements about people:

Statement #1- The people involved in their sin know the ordinance of God. **1:32a**

The people involved in the sin know it is wrong. They know they are doing wrong. Don't kid yourself, they know what they are doing is against God and His word.

Statement #2- The people involved in their sin know they were worthy of death. **1:32b**

Deep in the heart and mind of every human is the knowledge that judgment is coming. You may flaunt your sin; you may laugh at your sin; you may approve your sin and applaud your sin, but deep in your heart you know you will face God for your sin.

Statement #3- The people involved in their sin heartily approve of their sin. **1:32c**

The old adage is true when it comes to depravity "birds of a feather, always flock together." People dominated by sin are drawn to others dominated by sin. They are not drawn to God and His word. They are drawn to people who approve what they are doing. There are like minded depravity groups that cover any sin imaginable.

We have been told by politicians and educators that the key to straightening out man is to educate them and invent more laws. It won't work. It will never work. The problem is the heart of man that does not want God or His word. So the evil will continue until God puts a stop to it.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

1. If a person continually disregards God and His word and pursues sin, God may abandon him.
Either give yourself to God or God will give you over to yourself.
2. Believers in Jesus Christ should be manifesting a new nature far removed from this list.
D. Martyn Lloyd Jones said unfortunately we all know more about the things mentioned on this list than we should know.
3. The purpose of this section is to show all are guilty and deserve God's wrath. Believe on Jesus Christ and be saved.