

Session #6: “WHEN GOD GIVES YOU UP” — Romans 1:24-32

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “BIBLE STUDIES”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- How/why does this portion of Scripture confront or concern our culture and society? – a serious and awesome passage! - **Cf. Mt. 7:13**
- To what three things has “God has given them over”? (vv. 24, 26 & 28)
- What hope is there for those whom “God has given over”?
- Do you think God loves homosexuals—that a true Christian can be a practicing homosexual ? Does God love homosexuality?
- How does “and such were some of you” relate to the permanency of the things given to us in vv. 26-32? What are you going to do with this passage of today’s study?

INTRODUCTION - *Romans 1:1-17* – Introduces us to the theme of the Book – Righteousness by Faith

Romans 1:18-8:39 -- 4 principles of the righteousness of God

Principle #1 – **CONDEMNATION** *Rom. 1:18-3:20* (Why a man is lost and why a man needs a Savior!)

Principle #2 - JUSTIFICATION – *Rom. 3:21-5:21* (How can a man be made just or righteous?)

Principle #3 - SANCTIFICATION – *Rom. 6:1-7:25* (Victory over sin through our Lord and through the power of the Holy Spirit)

Principle #4 – GLORIFICATION/SECURITY – *Rom. 8:1-39* (It starts with no condemnation and ends with no separation from the love of God!)

Paul will touch every single kind of person imaginable – Whole world is accountable and is found guilty)-

CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO REJECT THE REVELATION OF GOD - ROM. 1:18-32

Three things:

Last session; vv. 18-23: Their knowing rejection of God in creation proves they deserve condemnation

This session; vv. 24-27: Their actions prove they deserve condemnation;

This session; vv. 28-32: Their attitude reveals they deserve the condemnation of God.

2B. Their ACTIONS prove that they deserve condemnation - 24-27

Three times it says “*God gave them up...or over*” - vv. 24, 26, & 28 (three paragraphs - same exact words in the Greek); v. 24 - “*Therefore*” - Greek: *dio*; v. 26 - “*For this reason*” - Greek: *dia touto*; v. 28 - “*And even as*” - Greek: *kai kathos*

*Rom 1:24 Therefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,***

1C. They are Controlled by physical desires – 24 - “*uncleanness*” - associated with sexual sin & demonism - (“*unclean spirit*”)

1D. The desire comes from within - “*the lusts of their hearts*” – “We decided!” cf. *Gal. 5:16; Mark 7:21-23*

2D. The dishonor (a reduction) involves their physical bodies - “*to dishonor their bodies among themselves*” - cf. *1 Cor. 6:18 (adultery, incest, bestiality); Eph. 4:18-19*

*Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, **who is blessed forever.** Amen.*

2C. They are Concerned for the creature rather than the Creator – 25 - cf. v. 23 - cf. *Deut. 4:15-19, 21-29, 35, 39* “*Who is blessed for ever*” (Save the whales; kill our babies!)

*Rom 1:26 **For this reason God gave them up to vile (degrading) passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Rom 1:27 Likewise (in the exact same manner) also the men, leaving the natural use (sexual intercourse) 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.

3C. They are Corrupted by unnatural passions - 26-27

- “*For this reason*” - refers to issue of v. 25, which simply strengthens the argument of *verses 21-23* - the steps that lead to God’s judgment. - “*vile passions*” - NASB - “*degrading passions*” - NIV
- “*shameful lusts*”

1D. A sexual principle is violated - v. 26 - “*exchanged the natural use*” - v. 27 - “*leaving the natural use*” - The word “*use*” is commonly used for sexual intercourse – that which is “*natural*” refers to what God intended.

2D. A sexual plan of God is ignored - v. 27 - “*committing what is shameful*” - that which is without shape, plan, or design - cf. Leviticus 18:22(evidence in the Torah); 20:13

3D. A sexual penalty is experienced – 27 - “*receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due*” Instead of being rewarded with sexual satisfaction, (1) a sexual obsession is created that brings dissatisfaction - it is a “penalty” not a reward! It is also possible that (2) sexual disease is intended in addition to the problems of sexual satisfaction or (3) sexual vitality being reduced. In the days of the Roman Empire, homosexuality was glorified and made more desirable than heterosexuality. 14 of the first 15 emperors were homosexuals. Nero married two men in succession and at the time of Paul’s writings, he was about to marry a boy named Sporus (recorded in Suetonius, Lives of the Caesars) Plato spoke highly of homosexual love in his work entitled, The Symposium. The Jewish historian, Josephus, clearly identifies the sin of Sodom with homosexual practices. In the work called “Apostolic Constitution” we read this statement: “*Thou shalt not corrupt boys - for this wickedness is contrary to nature and arose from Sodom.*” In the 4th century AD, John Chrysostom wrote about homosexuality in the city of Antioch and said “*There is absolutely nothing more demented or noxious than this wickedness.*” Augustine confessed to having contaminated the spring of male friendship with the dirt of lust, and later stigmatized homosexual behavior as against nature and contrary to human custom. Thomas Aquinas declared homosexual acts as “*vices against nature.*”

3B. Their ATTITUDES reveal that they deserve the condemnation of God -

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased (reprobate) mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

“*a debased mind*” - v. 28 - - moral deviation leads to mental depravity! There are 23 characteristics of “*a debased mind*” - placed in the Greek text into four groupings:

Rom 1:29-31 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness;

1C. “*Being filled with*” - 5 things - “*all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness*
full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness;

2C. “*Full of*” - 5 things - “*envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness* (evil ethics)
they are *whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

3C. “*they are*” - 8 things - “*whisperers, backbiters* (to talk against), *haters of God, violent* (insults), *proud* (to appear above others - arrogant), *boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents*”

(without) *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*

4C. “*without*” - 5 things - “*undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving* (no family love - *storge*), *unforgiving* (truce breaker), *unmerciful*”

Rom 1:32 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.

1D. Their Practices continue even in light what God says about it - 32a

2D. Their Pleasure in doing these things is greater when others join them - 32b

IS THERE ANY HOPE? Absolutely! 1 Cor. 6:9-11 What are you going to do with this passage of today’s study? 1) – Regarding yourself? – 1 Cor. 10:13; Job 31:1; Ps. 119:37; Dan. 1:8; Gen. 39:9
2) – Regarding others? – 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 1:14-17