

Issues Facing the Church Series

WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE ROMANS 1:24-28, 32

Text: Romans 1:25

Romans 1:25

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.*

Introduction:

Read some of the articles from the churches on homosexuality.

When man's rebellion against God grows strong, he determines to go his own way. Man's freedom though is not without responsibility. We are held responsible by God for choosing to follow our own way. God will allow man to have his own way but turns him over to the results of following his own way.

When man abandons God, God eventually will abandon man to his fallen nature and the resulting consequences.

There are those today who believe the sodomy is acceptable.

Others feel that it is wrong to say anything negative about that lifestyle.

But what matters is not man's opinions but rather what God's Word says about it.

We read a sad statement which is repeated twice in this passage that "God gave them up."

Romans 1:24

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:26

²⁶ 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:

Note in this passage the results of man's sinful rebellion.

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF MAN'S SINFUL REBELLION (VS. 24-25)

Romans 1:24-25

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.

Notice:

A. Based In Sinful Choices (vs. 24)

Man chooses sin over God because sin is bound up in his own heart.

Matthew 15:19-20

¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: ²⁰ These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

James 1:14

¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

The natural man will always choose his sins over the will of God, the word of God and the purposes of God.

Man is a sinner and nothing can remedy that short of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Notice that the more a man seeks to honor himself by exalting his will over that of God, the more dishonorable he becomes.

When he chooses sin over a relationship with the living God, his sinful nature grows more corrupt.

Ephesians 4:22

²² *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

The word corrupt means to spoil.

The whole character representing the former self is not only corrupt, but growing more and more corrupt.

Not only is it based on sinful choices but also:

B. Based On Sinful Changes (vs. 25)

Romans 1:25

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.

Since man refuses to live by God's law, (vs. 18), he invents his own law!

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

The result is that man also invents his own gods.

The chief god usually being "Self." God calls this behavior the exchange of a truth for a lie!

Man trades that which is living, helpful and vital for that which is dead, harmful and vain!

Note not only Substance Of Man's Sinful Rebellion but also:

2. THE SYMBOL OF MAN'S SINFUL REBELLION (VS. 26-27)

Romans 1:26-27

²⁶ 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 recompense of their error which was meet.

Because man has chosen his sin over God, man is given over, (vs. 26), to vile affections. The depths to which man can sink are represented here.

These next 2 verses describe the absolute bottom of the pit of iniquity. The basic idea here is that this is where societies always end up when they choose their ways over God's ways. It has been the case in every major society throughout history, and we are seeing the same trend in America tonight.

Note:

A. Man's Attractions Are Sickening (vs. 26-27)

In these verses, we see described the sin of homosexuality.

It pictures the absolute depths of depravity.

Why this sin and not any of the thousands of others?

I think the answer lies in the fact that homosexuals are typically given to more promiscuous behavior than heterosexuals.

Paul tells us in (vs. 26) that "even their women" were involved in this insidious lifestyle.

Romans 1:26

²⁶ *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:*

The emphasis here is that women are usually the strong defenders of morality in any society.

However, Paul is describing a people who are totally given up to a sinful standard of life.

He might as well be writing about America!

Not only is Man's Attractions Sickening but also:

B. Man's Addictions Are Settled (vs. 27)

Romans 1:27

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.*

This choice of lifestyle, and it is a choice, brings its own judgment!

When God gives a man up to his choice of lifestyle, that man will find that his attraction to and addiction to his sin will become stronger by the day.

They are literally overcome by their vile affections.

What used to bring shame when committed, now doesn't faze them or bother them at all opening the door for them to sink to ever deeper levels of sinful depravity.

That is the "recompense of the sin".

Being abandoned by God enslaves a man to His sin fully! It is as though God had been actively restraining them and now He takes away His hand and they run fully to their sin and its ultimate end!

Illustration:

This judgment is also evident in the physical realm. AIDS is one of the first thoughts that comes to mind.

Instances of sexually transmitted diseases are becoming rampant in our society, and it isn't just affecting the homosexual community.

They bear the brunt of AIDS, but it is swiftly spreading to all corners of society.

When a man like Magic Johnson is diagnosed as HIV positive and admits to having had been with as many as 20,000 women, you begin to realize the depths to which human depravity can sink!

Note not only Substance Of Man's Sinful Rebellion and the Symbol of Man's Sinful Rebellion but also:

3. THE SCOPE OF MAN'S SINFUL REBELLION (vs. 28-32)

Romans 1:28-32

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.*

Notice:

A. It's Seen In His Decisions (vs. 28)

Romans 1:28

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;

At this point, man's rejection of God is complete. As they give themselves more fully to their sins, the less room they have in their minds for God. Eventually, He is rooted totally out of the picture by the vile affections that have these people trapped! Even the gods of his own invention become less and less necessary. The person who has come this far in his rebellion comes to think of himself as his own god.

Not only is it Seen In His Decisions but also:

B. It's Seen In His Depravity (vs. 28-31)

Romans 1:28-31

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:

We are told that God gives them over to a "reprobate " mind. That refers to something that has been put to the test, failed the test and has been rejected.

The word was used to refer to the refining of metals.

The idea is that men did not want God in their lives, so He gives them over to the power of a totally depraved mind.

At this point, they are absolutely capable of any sin imaginable!

We're given a list of 23 sins. These are not meant to be an exhaustive list of possible sins but is are representations of the sins which man is capable of committing.

Notice:

- Unrighteousness, Fornication and Wickedness

These three categories of sin encompass all those listed below and every other form of sin imaginable! They are all represented in these words.

- Covetousness

Appetite for the things of others

- Maliciousness

Ill-will and vengeance

- Envy

It is the spirit that wants not only the things that another person has, but begrudges the fact that the person has them. It is the spirit that wants not only the things to be taken away from the person, but wants him to suffer through the loss of them.

- Murder
- Debate

A spirit given to fighting

- Deceit
- Malignity

A spirit filled with evil, envy and hatred that it loves nothing better than the destruction of another human being!

- Whisperers

A gossip who seeks to harm another's reputation

- Backbiters

While the one above is done in secret, this one is done in the open. It is the same spirit

- Haters of God

This is a person who hates the standards and restrictions imposed by God. His goal is to be the god of his own life

- Despiteful

A life of defiance that dares God or other men to get in its way. This kind of person is determined to have his own way at all costs.

- Proud

- Boasters

A person who brags about what he has or what he has done, even if it isn't necessarily true

- Inventors of Evil Things

This is a person who is tired of sin as usual and seeks new forms of pleasure and excitement

- Disobedient to Parents

Watch a rebellious child! He/she is open to all kinds of sinful activity

- Without Understanding

This is a person who refuses to learn by experience. They have rejected the truth and have closed their eyes and minds to it

- Covenant Breakers

Untrustworthy! Refers to people who will not keep their word! You simply cannot depend on them

- Without Natural Affection

Abnormal affection and love, heartless, without human emotion or love, a lack of feeling for others which lead to the prevailing of perversion

- Implacable

A person who is unwilling to make peace or come to an agreement

- Unmerciful

It is an absence of consideration or feelings for others. What matters is one's own pleasure and rights, not the pleasure and rights of others

Not only is it Seen In His Decisions and Depravity but also:

C. Seen In His Destiny (vs. 32)

Romans 1:32

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.*

Man knows in his heart where his sin will lead! However, he chooses to sin against his own conscience and go on in his sinful activity. He pursues his sin with everything in his power.

They also delight in all those who live the same lifestyle. These people encourage one another in their sins while both plunge headlong toward Hell!

Close:

I don't know about you, but I find this image troubling. It is a harsh, but true reality that those who reject God will ultimately be rejected by God.

When they sear their conscience, 1 Tim. 4:2, they close the door to God's activity in their lives.

1 Timothy 4:2

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Even though He is a God of love, mercy, grace and longsuffering, He is still a God of holiness, justice, judgment and wrath. There is a price to pay for rejecting Him.

There is a species of ant in Africa that builds its colonies and nests in deep underground tunnels. It is here that their young and their queen live. Even though these ants may be a great distance from the nest foraging for food, they can sense when their queen is being attacked and they all become extremely nervous and uncoordinated. If she is killed, they become frantic and rush around aimlessly until they die.

What a perfect illustration of the person who has rejected God in his life. Being unable to find direction and peace apart from a relationship with God, he

rushes around aimlessly, pursuing his sins until he too dies and enters eternity.