

# ROMANS: One Verse at a Time

## Romans 1:24-32

### ***God's Wrath on Unrighteousness***

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

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

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> 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; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> 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.

**24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,**

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I heard a Bible teacher give good advice one day about studying the text of Scripture. He said, “When you see a ‘\_\_\_\_\_,’ you need to see what it is \_\_\_\_\_.” In this case, “therefore” introduces a whole new section of Paul’s message about the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. He has pointedly explained that all men everywhere have been given the revelation of the existence and \_\_\_\_\_ of God by means of the things He has made. When men suppress the truth of that revelation rather than responding to it by seeking the Lord with all of their heart, then their thinking becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and their heart is \_\_\_\_\_. Their rejection of the One True Creator God leads them to manufacture gods of their own liking, worshipping them rather than the Creator Himself.

The consequence of their choice was that **God gave them up**. This statement does not fit well with many people’s view of God. They see God as “a great \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.” Not so! Although the love of God for every man and woman who has ever been born on the face of the earth is far greater than the most benevolent grandfather, His \_\_\_\_\_ and righteousness is also altogether greater than we are capable of comprehending. Romans 1:24-32 is one of the most fearful passages in all of Scripture and certainly the most sobering of the Book of Romans. The theme of these nine verses is that when men continue to abandon God, God \_\_\_\_\_ them. Three times in this section the Holy Spirit gives Paul the words, “**God gave them up.**”

Does God really do this?

Consider Psalm 81:11-12

<sup>11</sup> “But My people would not heed My voice,

And Israel would *have* none of Me.

<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart,

To walk in their own counsels.

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<sup>24</sup> Therefore  
God also gave  
them up to  
uncleanness.

Consider Hosea 4:17

<sup>17</sup> “Ephraim *is* joined to idols, Let him\_\_\_\_\_.

Listen to Paul preaching to the pagans in Lystra in Acts 14:16

<sup>16</sup> who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

A good summary of this principle is found in 2 Chronicles 15:2

<sup>2</sup> And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Look also in 2 Chronicles 24:20

<sup>20</sup> Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has \_\_\_\_\_ you.’ ”

The only good news at all about God’s abandonment of those who reject Him is that God is willing for His abandonment to be \_\_\_\_\_. Even when God leaves men to the \_\_\_\_\_ of their own sin or to the direct consequences of His own righteous wrath, God is willing for men to \_\_\_\_\_. Those who repent of rejecting God and instead seek Him with their whole heart, may yet have the promise fulfilled – “They will find Him!”

The \_\_\_\_\_ had rejected God and therefore were objects of His wrath. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

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.

**Uncleanness** can also be translated \_\_\_\_\_. It was a word used of metals which still had impurities in them that made them unacceptable, \_\_\_\_\_. The word was often used in the context of \_\_\_\_\_ impurity, as is born out by the reminder of this passage.

Uncleanness, impurity starts in the \_\_\_\_\_. James 1:14

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **Lusts** means \_\_\_\_\_ but the word is especially used to indicate \_\_\_\_\_ desires. Lust led to impurity, and impurity led to dishonoring their own bodies. The person that engages in sexual impurity debases, disgraces, and \_\_\_\_\_ his own body as well as the bodies of others.

That is what happens to those **who exchanged the truth of God for the lie**. The truth being given up is the truth of God's \_\_\_\_\_ and deity and the lie being believed is that there is \_\_\_\_\_. The result of that futile thinking leads to **worshipping the creature**, self or others or other things, in the place of the Creator.

Here Paul breaks from his intensive condemnation of those who reject God and are therefore abandoned to His wrath by his own mention of the name and description of God: Creator. He cannot help but insert an oft spoken \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews – **the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen!**

We come now the second time to the statement that **God gave them up**. The first time He abandoned them to the \_\_\_\_\_ caused by lust. Now He leaves them to their own **vile passions**. The degrading passion in which God leaves these who have rejected Him is \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to **vile passions**.

For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

<sup>27</sup> 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,

In this verse (26) and the next, Paul does not even use the normal word for men and women. Literally he says, “**Even their \_\_\_\_\_ exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the \_\_\_\_\_...**” “The natural use” or the natural function was an expression commonly used to speak of intimate \_\_\_\_\_ relations. The clear meaning of this statement by the Spirit through Paul is that homosexuality is \_\_\_\_\_.

In the same way the males did that which is unnatural as well, departing from **natural** relations with females to \_\_\_\_\_ with lust for other males. While heterosexuals can and do **burn** with **lust** also, few heterosexual people know the \_\_\_\_\_ of lust that is common among homosexuals. In Genesis 19 we read of the homosexuals of the city of \_\_\_\_\_ attacking Lot and his house because they wanted to sexually assault the men (angels) whom Lot had allowed into his home. When the angels struck the attackers blind, their \_\_\_\_\_ was so great that rather than be dismayed by their blindness and returning to their homes or the streets, they \_\_\_\_\_ to grope for the door, trying to get to the men to fulfill their lusts! Those who have researched life in the homosexual community of the United States and Europe say that it is not uncommon for a homosexual male to have several \_\_\_\_\_ partners a year.

Note God’s clear appraisal of this practice. He has already said it is unnatural. Now He says it is \_\_\_\_\_. This is not the opinion of a right wing homophobe. This is the judgment of God. Those who want to justify homosexuality must totally disregard the \_\_\_\_\_, both Old and New Testament.

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It is incredibly sad when churches and whole denominations, in a misguided attempt to show compassion, declare homosexuality to be an acceptable alternative lifestyle. For one thing, they destroy their \_\_\_\_\_ with such a stand. For if the Bible is not true in saying that God finds homosexuality to be an unnatural, shameful abomination, then why should someone believe it is true when it declares that we are sinners who stand in need of a Savior?

Secondly, it is sad because in trying to be helpful to the homosexuals, they are in reality subjecting them to the worst abuse possible: \_\_\_\_\_. and \_\_\_\_\_. They are helping the homosexuals believe the \_\_\_\_\_ lie that their sin is not sin at all. They are OK. They do not need to \_\_\_\_\_. They do not need a \_\_\_\_\_ for there is nothing to be saved from. Those who believe this lie clothed in religious garments not only continue to suffer the consequences of their rebellion on earth but then spend eternity in \_\_\_\_\_ with all other sinners who have refused to believe in Christ.

and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Genuine compassion calls for \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said, "The truth shall make you free." A person can be forgiven of the sin of homosexuality as surely as he can be forgiven of the sin of adultery, but only in the exact same way: by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself said, in Luke 13:3

<sup>3</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

<sup>28</sup> 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;

<sup>29</sup> being filled with **all unrighteousness**,

sexual immorality,

wickedness,  
covetousness,  
maliciousness;  
full of envy, murder,  
strife,  
deceit,  
evil-mindedness;

**they are** whisperers,  
<sup>30</sup> backbiters,  
haters of God,  
violent,  
proud,  
boasters,  
inventors of evil things,  
disobedient to parents,  
<sup>31</sup> undiscerning,  
untrustworthy,

unloving,  
unforgiving,  
unmerciful;

Those who reject the revelation of God and who progress to futile thinking, dark hearts, idolatry, impurity, and vile passions **do not like to retain God in their knowledge**. Therefore, God gives them up to a debased mind or a \_\_\_\_\_ mind. Job described such wicked men in Job 21:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways.

<sup>15</sup> Who *is* the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?'

Consequently, they not only sin sexually but in every other way. Their lives become filled with \_\_\_ unrighteousness. Most of the sins listed here are self-explanatory. The list reads like a description of our society today.

And it should! For the majority of our population in our country and our world are exactly like Paul is describing. They have rejected the revelation of God through creation and believe in godless \_\_\_\_\_. Their minds are futile; their hearts are dark. They worship self and live lives of impurity and lust. Their minds are depraved and every sin listed here is commonly found among them.

One sad commentary could be made on the word "\_\_\_\_\_." The Greek word is especially used for a parent who abandons a young \_\_\_\_\_ or a grown child who abandons aging \_\_\_\_\_. Did Paul write Romans in the first or twenty-first century?

<sup>32</sup> who,

knowing the  
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them.

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Paul completes his argument where he began. He is not talking about people who believe wrong or live wrong because they have no \_\_\_\_\_ to know better.

These people had God's revelation. They have had it their \_\_\_\_\_ lives. They have just rejected it. If they had responded to what God made known to them by way of creation, God would have sent them even \_\_\_\_\_ revelation. If they would just seek Him with their \_\_\_\_\_ heart, He would cause them to find Him.

Therefore, not in ignorance, but in \_\_\_\_\_, they have done these things contrary to the righteous judgment of God. Paul later develops the argument that they even have an \_\_\_\_\_ witness within their own soul that convicts them of God's righteous judgment, but we will examine that when we get to Paul's explanation. But here he concludes that they even know that the consequence of their rebellion is \_\_\_\_\_.

Yet their hearts are so rebellious that they not only \_\_\_\_\_ (repeatedly do) all of these sins, they encourage others to do the same by \_\_\_\_\_ of the very things God abhors. Is it possible for a passage of Scripture to be more descriptive of the day in which we live? Yet people today say, "Do not preach about wrath or judgment or hell. We do not want to listen to that." And in large measure, the church (\_\_\_\_\_) has responded, "OK. We won't."

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