

When God Gives Up (Part 4) **Romans 1:24-32**

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: When individuals or a society persist in rejecting God and suppressing the truth of His Word, God allows them to indulge their evil desires without restraint and then suffer the inevitable consequences of their sin.

The rejection of God and His truth results in a downward spiral of the individual and the society that ends in total moral depravity and spiritual death. God abandons man to his sins; sin and its terrible consequences become the judgment of God. He does this so that people might come to their senses, repent of their sin and cry out to Him for forgiveness, cleansing and empowerment to overcome sin in their lives.

I. The Reality of God's Wrath (1:18a) – God's wrath is a present reality for those who are rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. The Recipients of God's Wrath (1:18b) – God is pouring out His wrath on those who refuse to submit to His truth and who pursue a lifestyle of wickedness and sin.

III. The Reason for God's Wrath (1:18c) – God is pouring out His wrath on those who deliberately and systematically seek to remove Him from every aspect of their lives and society.

IV. The Reasonableness of God's Wrath (1:19-23) – God's wrath is reasonable and Man is without excuse because he has willfully rejected the clear and understandable revelation of God's existence, power and nature. Man's rejection of God and His truth leads invariably to spiritual blindness and moral depravity. He then creates false gods made in his own likeness and the image of created things.

V. The Revelation of God's Wrath (1:24-32)

...God gave them up / over...

A. To sexual impurity resulting in degradation and idolatry (1:24-25)

- When people reject God and His truth, He allows them to indulge the "sinful desires of their hearts" resulting in sexual perversion and spiritual idolatry.
- "Physical intimacy between one man and one woman in marriage is the only sexual relationship that has divine approval (Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6)." (*Charles Swindoll, Coming to Terms with Sin, p. 18*)
- Man, male and female, *is* the image of God. Human sexuality and gender are expressions and manifestations of the image of God. Therefore, the perversion and abuse of human sexuality and gender are direct attacks on the image of God. That's why sexual sins are such an abomination to God. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18-24)

B. To shameful lusts resulting in homosexuality and perversion (1:26-27)

- According to the Bible, homosexuality is a sin, not a sickness or an innate, sexual orientation. (Genesis 18:20; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Jude 7)

- Homosexuality is “unnatural...indecent...perversion”; it is contrary to and against God’s design for Man.
- “In this passage, the point is not that homosexuality is a sin that should be punished. Rather homosexuality itself is the punishment.” (*The New King James Study Bible, p. 1880. Emphasis added*)
- “Throughout history, one of the marks of a society in decline has been an increased tolerance of and participation in homosexual activity. It has always been a strong indicator that the foundational unit of a culture—the family—was breaking down.” (*Swindoll, Terms, p. 19*)
- “God created the human body with the capacity to enjoy intense sexual pleasure within the context of a life-long covenant between a man and a woman. Far from being something shameful or degrading, sex as God intended honors the gift and the Giver. But humankind has twisted this wonderful gift into something subhuman.” (*Swindoll, Insights on Romans, p. 48*)

C. To a depraved mind resulting in every kind of wickedness and hearty approval of others’ sins (1:28-32)

- A “depraved” mind is iterally a “worthless” mind.
- A depraved mind is a mind that can no longer distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. (Isa. 6:10; Matt. 13:15; Acts 28:27; 1 Tim. 4:2; Eph. 4:17-19)
- **...those who do such things deserve death...** (Rom. 6:20-23; Ezek. 18:4, 20; Rom. 5:12; Gal. 6:7-8; Jas. 1:13-15; Rev. 21:8)
- “Not only did the people themselves sin but they encouraged and vicariously enjoyed the sins of others.” (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1703*) (Psalm 50:18-20)
 - When we choose to watch people sinning on TV, in movies, videos, on the Internet, we ourselves are guilty of verse 32.