

God GAVE Them OVER ~ Romans 1:26-32

→Scripture Reading Romans 1:25, 28-32

INTRODUCTION

From IDOLATRY to IMMORALITY is just one short step. If man is his own god, then he can do whatever he pleases and fulfill his DESIRES without fear of judgment. Wiersbe

Romans 1:18 (NIV) The WRATH of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who SUPPRESS the TRUTH by their wickedness...

Romans 1:25 (NIV) They EXCHANGED the TRUTH of God for a LIE, and worshiped and served CREATED things RATHER than the CREATOR - who is forever praised. Amen.

Man's refusal to acknowledge and glorify God leads to a downward path: first, worthless thinking; next, a moral slide into depravity; and then, religious stupidity... BKC

Turning AWAY from God's DESIGN ~ Romans 1:26-27

²⁶ Because of this, God GAVE them OVER to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

They Exchanged...

- the TRUTH of God for a LIE vs. 25
- NATURAL relations for UNNATURAL ones vs. 26-27

Just as idolatry is unnatural (contrary to what God intended), so too homosexuality is contrary to nature in that it does not represent what God INTENDED when he made men and women with physical bodies that have a NATURAL way of interacting with each other and NATURAL desires for each other. ESV

WRONG STATEMENTS

- homosexuality is OK as long as children are not involved
- a person does not CHOOSE to be a homosexual
- homosexuality is OK if it is between committed homosexuals

Careful OBSERVATIONS

- God does NOT make Mistakes
- Sin has Distorted and Perverted God's Design for Sex
- Sin is Sin homosexuality is the not the WORST

At its CORE Homosexuality is a...

- rejection of God's DESIGN
- rejection of God's INTENT for Sex

Matthew 19:4-5 (NLT) Haven't you read the Scriptures? Jesus replied. They record that from the beginning 'God MADE them male and female.'⁵ And He said, 'This explains why a man leaves His father and mother and is JOINED to His wife, and the two are UNITED into one.'

IMPLICATION

→You REAP what you SOW

²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women... and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NLT) Don't be misled - you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.
⁸ Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

DEPRAVED Minds ~ Romans 1:28-32

²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it **worthwhile** to retain the knowledge of God, he **GAVE them OVER** to a DEPRAVED mind, to do what ought not to be done.

God does not cause this steady progression toward evil. Rather, when people REJECT Him, He allows them to live as they CHOOSE. God GIVES them OVER to experience the natural consequences of their sin. LAB

²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the WAGES of sin is DEATH, but the FREE GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Because of men's refusal to retain God in their knowledge, either as Creator, Sustainer, or Deliverer, God gave them over to a debased mind to commit a catalog of other forms of wickedness. McDonald

DOWNWARD SPIRAL...LAB

- REJECT God vs. 18, 25
- MAKE UP their own IDEAS of god vs. 25
- PURSUE sin vs. 24-32
- grow to HATE God vs.32
- Encourage OTHERS to Hate God as well vs.32

IMPLICATION

→You become LIKE that which you WORSHIP

²⁶ ...God GAVE them OVER

When TRUTH is repeatedly REJECTED, in time the ability to recognize and to RECEIVE truth is IMPAIRED. BKC

Hosea 9:10 (NLT) The LORD says, "O Israel, when I first found you, it was like finding fresh grapes in the desert. When I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the first ripe figs of the season. But then they deserted ME for Baal-peor, giving themselves to that shameful idol. Soon **they became VILE**, as vile as **the god they WORSHIPED**.

TAKE AWAY ??

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV) Do you not know that the wicked will NOT inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived:** Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And that is what some of you WERE. But **you were WASHED**, you were **SANCTIFIED**, you were **JUSTIFIED** in the **NAME of the Lord Jesus Christ** and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NET) BUT GOD, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even though we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ - by GRACE you are SAVED!