

God's Response to Man Rejecting Divine Revelation (Continued)

Romans 1:26-32

In attempting to bring this remarkable chapter to a close, I will lift up what I believe to be three of the most impactful statements found therein. We have already considered two of them to a degree, but must refer to them again as we continue our considerations of the whole.

The first statement is found in **verse 23** where Paul stated the Gentile world has “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God....” Such an act was not done accidentally, but was done with incredulity and intentionality. Those that knew God chose to exchange Him for what they knew God was not. They chose to exchange the true glory of God for what they knew was not the true glory of God. They chose to make gods of their own liking in spite of knowing the repercussions of their folly, and (if I understand the last statement made by Paul in this chapter) the judgment associated with making such choices as referred to in **verse 32**. More could be added here, but this has already been considered earlier, hopefully, to a somewhat satisfying degree.

The second statement is found in **verse 25**. There we have the record of the Gentile possessing the audacity to feel he had the liberty to “change the truth of God into a lie....” As I stated earlier in my comments, this is, to me, one of the most frightful statements found anywhere in the Scriptures! Although men knew what truth was, they chose to suppress what they knew to be true and refused to allow it to have the effect God had designed for it to have on and over mankind. Instead, man chose to exchange the truth of God for a lie. To repeat again, the lie referenced here is the lie that was introduced by Satan in the beginning, in the garden: the lie being that man may himself be god. (give reference to the place this may be found in comments previously made the comments are completed)

In response to man's decision to exchange the One True God as the one true object of worship for idols, God chose to give man up to the lusts of his depraved heart and remove His divine restraints from man. Thus assuring that his mind, heart, and body would plunge more deeply into uncleanness and vileness.

In fact, we would be wise to take note of the three times we find a similar phrase given in this passage. We find the phrase repeated in **verses 24, 26, and 28**. They

read first (two times) as: “God...gave them up (and then)...God gave them over.” What Paul was referring to in the phrase “gave them up or over” means to give them to what is known in the Greek language as “*paradidomai*.” This means: giving them over to judgment. And we should take serious note that the results of all three of those judgments God gave them over to, are of a sexual nature. That truth is altogether obviously seen in the following passages:

verses 24-25 refer to sexual immorality

verses 26-27 refer to lesbianism and homosexuality

verses 28-32 refer to a depraved and reprobate mind

The late and great Bible teacher and evangelist Oliver B. Greene stated: “One of the most dangerous sins being committed today by man is (that of) having the knowledge of God and yet refusing to surrender his all to God.” To that I will gladly say, Amen! Since mankind has tried God and found Him to not be according to their liking, they have chosen to demote Him from His exalted position and in His place, exalt themselves to the level of god. Their choices and decisions were not the result of an accident, but of a clear conscious choice. Those choices always result in idolatry and a downward spiral of mankind morally, spiritually, and mentally.

Wherever man is found on the footstool of God, man will be found worshiping, something. It may not be the God of creation, but man will be found worshiping some god. Whether it be the One True God of eternity or a false god of man’s own making and liking, he will be found worshiping something until he dies. Why? Simply stated, man was created to worship. If he refuses to worship the One True God he will invent and fashion a god of his own liking and worship that. And in the worship he offers to those gods of his own making and liking, he will manifest his ability to commit a number of inhuman and beastly acts. Mankind will go so far as to divorce themselves from the natural use of the body, as designed by God, and do many things contrary to nature. When they reach that level of perversion, both men and women will abandon the natural use of the body to the degree that women will lie with women and men will lie with men. Lesbianism and sodomy will be the fair of the day. My friends, we are living in such a day.

There is so much that could be said here on the subject of homosexuality and the manner in which it is being promoted and displayed in our nation. But suffice it for me to say, although men, corporations, denominations, and other entities have changed their mind on a subject, the Word of God continues to testify that God has

not changed His mind nor will He ever! **Psalm 119:89** declares “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” And since it is settled in Heaven, rest assured it is settled on Earth as well. It is evident that when men forget their God, that fact will manifest itself in the ways and means whereby men express their affections towards one another. Those ways and means will be both vile and degraded and manifest in ungodly act carried out between themselves, if God and His Word are abandoned by them.

The third statement is found in **verse 28** where Paul said men “did not like to retain God in their knowledge.” Please note that the problem for man was not that he ***could not*** retain God in his knowledge, *but that he would **not retain** God in his knowledge*. Instead of worshiping Him and serving Him as he should, man chose not to think of Him or serve Him as God designed man to do. And, to cap this unfortunate truth off, man did what he did with the perfect knowledge that in doing such grievous things against God, that he would become subject to death, he not only did them, but also took pleasure in doing them.

Should we not take notice of the downward trend expressed here in this passage? Man has the power to refuse to retain God in his knowledge, exchange the One True God for another god which is no god. Man even has the ability to suppress the truth, or even change the truth of God into a lie. **BUT MAN DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DETERMINE THE RESPONSE OF GOD TO HIS CHOICES!**

God’s response is progressive as man regresses in deeper and deeper degrees of sin’s degradation. First, God delivers man to uncleanness as it has to do with their bodies. Next, God then delivers man to practicing that which is unnatural. Instead of man loving what is natural, he will find himself loving that which is unnatural while thinking it is natural or else not loving what is natural to love. Finally, God delivers man to do that which is not convenient or, as the word means, fitting (or proper or acceptable according to acceptable standards). God’s judgment in this final stage is to give them to a depraved mind that is void of true judgment or discernment. It is a mind that cannot be approved by God. It is a mind that believes it is right, when, in reality, it is wrong. And, if that is not enough, it is a mind that degrades to the point it takes great pleasure in doing that which it knows to be against the will of a Holy God, and does so with pleasure.

Verse 29-30 set forth a list of unrighteous behaviors that will occupy the mind of all who will not occupy their mind with thoughts of God and His truths. And let us all take note that when man arrives at this state, he will be “filled” with nothing but that which is ungodly even though he possesses a knowledge that in doing so with pleasure, divine judgment is sure to follow.

In order to bring this chapter to a close, I realized more commentary could be offered which may actually be the more appropriate thing to do, but please allow me to offer an incomplete list of some of the words found in **Romans 1:24-32** and a brief definition of those offered. I hope they will prove to help increase your understanding of the truths found in this great passage of Scripture.

Romans 1 contains the signs of what some have called the “death to a society.” To remind us, **verses 18** and **28** identifies who the “they” are Paul refers to in those verses. “They” are those who have rejected the truths of God’s Word by either suppressing them or changing them into a lie in order to have (supposed) liberty to worship a new god (which is not a god) that meets their approval.

It is obvious that America has degenerated from an **immoral** society into an **amoral** society. **Immoral** speaks of something that is against what is or has been established: whether referring to morally or ethically accepted standards of social practice. **Amoral** speaks of something or someone that is completely lacking in morals.

Again, the following list is not exhaustive. I believe you may find great pleasure in doing your own digging in order to discover definitions of words not listed below but applicable to what is listed in **verses 24-31**. Still, as I stated above, I do hope what is provided here proves to be helpful and enlightening to you.

In **verse 24** we have:

- “**uncleanness**” that which is impure, sensual and evil, morally or spiritually

In **verse 26**:

- “**vile affections**” speaks of passions that are dishonorable, shameful, and disrespectful

PLEASE take special note to the word “**USE**.” It is found only in two places in the Word of God and both of those places are found here in **Romans 1:26** and **27**.

The word comes from the Greek word “*chresis*” and it refers to “***employment or being used or put to use.***” In the context of this passage, it can only refer to intimate sexual relationships. That is, failing to use one’s body in accordance to the plan divinely ordered and intended by God as to how a person’s body ought to be used in an intimate manner.

In verse 27:

- “***burned***” speaks of lusts that are raging: speaks of one willing to do all that is necessary in order to satisfy their depraved lusts
- “***unseemingly***” that which is not proper or appropriate
- “***recompense***” meaning giving back in return; that is to reward in a bad sense
- “***error***” refers to a forsaking of the right path both in doctrine and morals

In verse 28:

- “***convenient***” that which is not fitting

In verse 29:

- “***fornication***” that which is illicit, in reference to sexual relations (i.e. intercourse): that which is forbidden by laws, rules, or accepted customs whether they be God’s or man’s
- “***malicious***” which refers to character opposite of that which is excellent; that which is bad in quality
- “***malignity***” refers to an evil disposition that is persistent and intense; ill willed, having a desire to harm others

In verse 30:

- “***haters of God:***” referring to those who are impious or lacking of piety or honor for or towards God: showing no respect for God; without understanding, implicating wickedness
- “***implacable***” refers to truce breakers that refuse to be appeased or quitted

In verse 31:

- “***knowing***” meaning being fully aware of; being able to recognize

As I said above, this is not a complete list of all the things mentioned by the great Apostle Paul. In **verses 29-30** alone, he mentions at least twenty three different things that are manifest in a society that has been judged by God and abandoned by God to its depravity. By the way, I believe they are all being manifest in our society today, unfortunately. Again, although an incomplete list, I hope enough has been provided to provide some helpful insights to the truths presented here to us.

As we continue our studies in **chapter two** we will find a few principles by which God has chosen to deal with mankind whether Jew or Gentile. And, as He does, we will find He does so in a wholly righteous manner.

Tom Price, 2023