

GOD GAVE THEM UP
(Romans 1:24-32)

I. God gave them up to uncleanness (vs. 24-25).

- A. "Wherefore" refers back to what had just been said.
 - 1. Because of their rejection of God from their knowledge, God gave them up.
 - 2. He quit trying to keep them from hurting themselves, He pulled back His providential restraints.
- B. They went first to uncleanness.
 - 1. This word means unnatural pollution.
 - 2. It carries the idea of moral defilement.
- C. They went to uncleanness because of the lusts found in their hearts.
 - 1. When there is no thought of God, something has to take the place of those thoughts.
 - 2. Man will replace thoughts of God with thoughts of pleasing self.
- D. They found pleasure in sexual acts with one another.
- E. This was all because of changing the truth of God into the lies of idolatry.
 - 1. Idols were created by men so the myths that went along with them were created by men.
 - 2. Man attributed to these idols, actions they wanted to engage in themselves.
 - 3. Thus, we see that idol worship often involved illicit sexual activity.
 - 4. When one could engage in this type of sin in worship, it naturally bled out into Gentile society.
- F. They served themselves, the creature, over God, the Creator.

II. God gave them up to vile affections (vs. 26-27).

- A. For the cause of idolatry God gave them up to shameful passions, which is the meaning of vile affections.
- B. Notice that this next step was from heterosexual fornication to that of lesbianism and homosexuality.
 - 1. The women joined together in sexual sin, changing what was natural for that which was unnatural.
 - 2. The men joined together in sexual sin, leaving the women for one another.
- C. This tells me that God does not make one a homosexual or a lesbian.
 - 1. It is not natural to engage in such sexual behavior.
 - 2. The idea is that it is against nature to do such.
- D. All of this was because they were wrapped up in their own lusts.
- E. As R.L. Whiteside wrote, When a people cease to respect God, they will not long respect their own bodies.
- F. Because of their sinful and shameful actions, they received that which they were due.
 - 1. Notice this seems to be a judicial verdict from God.
 - 2. They turned from God to their own lusts and were punished for it by falling into the depths of sexual sins.
 - 3. That this was punishment is seen in this verse.
 - 4. They received that which they were due for the sin of leaving off knowledge of God.
- G. We often say of people who look much older than they are because of the lifestyle they lead or led while younger, "They lived a hard life."
 - 1. That type of living shows on a person.
 - 2. Giving oneself over to complete sexual indulgence will show on a person through the diseases and depravity of mind that results in such behavior.
 - 3. Their lifestyles caused them much pain and grief but they didn't realize it was their first sin of leaving God that got them where they were.

III. God gave them over to a reprobate mind (vs. 28-32).

- A. Because of their total abandonment of God, they were allowed to be without any sense of judgment concerning right and wrong.
 - 1. This is the idea of reprobate mind.

2. They only lived to do that which pleased themselves.
- B. They did whatever they wanted, even if it was not proper, which is the idea of convenient.
- C. Paul then says they were filled with a number of things of an extremely sinful nature.
 1. They committed these acts so much they were full of them.
 2. We've often said about children and some that haven't grown up as they aged that they are full of mischief.
 3. We might say they were ate up with these things.
- D. You can't really group the sins into categories that Paul here lists.
 1. Most of them are further shades of one previously mentioned.
 2. You see in them actions towards others and sins against self.
 3. They simply did whatever they thought might bring them pleasure.
- E. We know what many of these words mean but some are not as clear.
 1. Debate refers to contention and strife - it was usually connected with anger and hatred.
 2. Malignity refers to putting the worst thoughts together about someone's actions or conduct.
 3. Whisperers refers to those who quietly talk bad about others to cause them to be looked upon badly by others.
 4. Inventors of evil things refers to those who actively seek new ways to commit some sinful act.
 5. Without natural affection refers to lack of love for offspring.
 - a. This was very prevalent in that day.
 - b. The Spartans had older men look for weakness or deformity in newborns and had them killed if found.
 - c. Aristotle even taught this action.
 - d. Child sacrifice was present in worship to certain deities.
 6. Implacable refers to those who will not seek an end to a quarrel, always egging it on and continuing something that could be ended.
- F. Though they had refused to acknowledge God, the knowledge of God never completely left them.
 1. They knew God hated these things and would stand against them for it.
 2. Even in their depths of sin, they knew the things they were doing were wrong.
 3. However, it didn't bother them.
- G. For all these things, God gave them up.