

Romans 1:24-32

When You Deny God, He will Deny You



Scripture - Romans 1:24-26

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.

²⁶ For this reason **God gave them** up to **vile passions...**

²⁸ And ...**God gave them over** to a **debased mind**,

**God
Abandons
those who
Reject the
Truth about
Him.**

**When You
Reject God,
He Rejects
You.
(Wrath)**

Process of God's Wrath of Abandonment

1. Revelation of God – v.19-20
2. Rejection of God – v.21
3. Idolatry – v.23
4. Sexual Immorality – v.24-27
5. Mind is Affected – v.28
 - (loses ability to think rationally)

Outline of v.24-32

- V.24 **“THEREFORE”** – on the basis of what was just said, that is, the continual rejection of the knowledge of God in Creation, then to exchange this treasure for idols and lies, this is the result.
 - “The fool has said in his heart there is no God”
- This is the **Condemnation or Judgement of God**
- This is not just God letting man go his own way, this is God pushing man away from Him. This is an active role of God, not a passive role.
- **“gave them up”** = same Greek word used in **Rom. 4:25, 8:32 “delivered up”** referring to Jesus being given over to the Cross by God – judgement of God

Current Events Application

2 Thess. 2:11

- ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And **for this reason God will send them strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be **condemned** who **did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Idolatry

- Giving ultimate significance and allegiance in “created” things and not God (**i.e. Money, fame, sex, education, science, eating, car, house, sports, power, angels, etc.**)
- The 1st two of the 10 Commandments relates to idolatry.
- **Idolatry starts in the heart as rejection of God as #1 in our life - anything you treasure that is created, more than God.**
- It can be what we put our hope in or seek enjoyment in , or we run to in times of trouble and worry. It is what we worship. The human mind is an idol factory.
- “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

Idolatry Brings the Wrath of God Upon You

Exodus 20 (1st & 2nd Commandments)

- ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. **For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, (righteous & loving jealousy)**

Colossians 3:5-7 (Covetousness = strong desire for others’ possessions)

- ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**. ⁶ Because of these things the **wrath of God is coming** upon the sons of disobedience...

Matthew 6:24 – Jesus Said About Idolatry:

- **“No one can serve two masters.** Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**

Immorality

- The lowest of all sins (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Galatians 5:19, 1 Cor. 6)
- **Means any type of sexual deviancy or desire outside the husband-wife relationship.**
- Not all sin is the same.
- In OT, some sin demanded the death penalty, some required an eye for an eye. The punishment must fit the crime.
- **Rejecting God is the biggest sin, then comes idolatry, then comes immorality.** This is always the slippery slope down whenever a society rejects God.

Current Times Application

- **Revelation 2: 14** - church of Pergamos is often described as the **LIBERAL APOSTATE church**.
- Jesus refers to the **teaching of Balaam – known for sexual immorality & idolatry** (Numbers 25:1-5)
- Balaam, and evil prophet, could not defeat the Israelites militarily, so he taught the people to practice idolatry and to commit fornication (Revelation 2:14). It was his counsel that caused the children of Israel to sin and to suffer a terrible plague (Numbers 25:1-9, Numbers 31:14-16).
- Immorality led them away from God and to Idolatry

Idolatry & Immorality - OT

- **Jeremiah – The Church in Babylon** - God is a God of mercy, but also of great justice
 1. **Idolatry is an exchange of Gods.** (Jer. 2:5, 11, 13)
 2. **A vision of God based on desire, specifically, Sexual Desire** (Pagan Gods, Baal, Molech, etc. were very tolerant with respect to sexuality - Jer. 2:20, 3:2). Brings freedom from God's laws on sexuality, but with a huge price of bondage to Satan: guilt, broken relationships and destruction.
 3. **Willful Self-Deception** – Jer. 2:22-23 – self justification, “everyone else is doing it” – you go looking for the sin, but in your conscience you already know it's wrong (v.26)
 4. **Solution** – Jer. 3:12 — Repentance – return to God, even with your idols, and God will free you.

“Woe to those who call evil good”

- We have ridiculed the absolute truth of God’s Word and called it moral pluralism.
We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.
We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.
We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.
We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
We have killed our unborn and called it choice.
We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem.
We have abused power and called it political savvy.
We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition.
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our fore-fathers and called it enlightenment.

• **Excerpt from Pastor Joe Wright's Prayer to the Kansas Senate in 1996**

3 Steps of Wrath of God

- V18-23 – when man rejects the true God as **CREATOR (not redeemer)**, these are the results:
- Romans 1:24,26,28– “God gave them over... (to Sin, 3 times)”

1. Sexual immorality -v. 24 – the first sign of a society experiencing this wrath. Operates in the lusts of the **Heart** and the body follows (sexual revolution of 60’s... internet porn today...families destroyed)

2. Degrading Passions - v. 26 – Extreme sexual immorality – **any sexual relationship that is not between a man & woman in marriage** - they receive the due penalty of their error - **Body**

3. Debased (Reprobate) Mind = ALL OTHER SIN

- V. 28– first the **heart**, then the **body**, now the **Mind**. Reasoning is corrupt and moral law of God is gone, the conscience does not function. They love evil things & hate the righteous things & live corrupt and selfish lives.

“God gave them over to...” = God Hardens the Heart of Unrepentant Man

- Sin (often Pride) causes hearts to grow hard, especially continual and unrepentant (unconfessed) sin. (i.e. Pharaoh, King Nebuchadnezzar)
- Scripture makes it clear that if we relentlessly continue to engage in sin, there will come a time when God will give us over to our “debased mind” and let us have it our way (Romans 1)
- Hard-hearted people cannot understand - Characteristics of a hardened heart is an **inability to see, understand, hear, and remember** the things of the kingdom of God even when they are taught in the plainest possible language.
- **The cure for a hardened heart** is we have to recognize the effect that this spiritual disease has on us. God will help us to see our heart’s condition when we ask Him: **“Search me O God, and know my heart...see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”** ([Psalm 139:23–24](#)). God can heal any heart once we recognize our disobedience and **repent of our sins**.
- Unless God himself takes the initiative to reconcile us to him, we remain helpless, with no future beyond death. That is exactly what he has done in Jesus Christ.

God Hardens the Heart of Unrepentant Man as a Judgement

Exodus 10:1

- Now the LORD said to Moses, “**Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart** and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,

Mark 4:11-13

- ¹¹ And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, ¹² so that
- **‘Seeing they may see and not perceive,
And hearing they may hear and not understand;
Lest they should turn,
And *their* sins be forgiven them.’”**

Mark 6:52

- For they had not understood about the loaves, because their **heart was hardened**.

Mark 8:17-18

- ¹⁷ But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “**Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?** ¹⁸ **Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?**

5 lies Mankind Believes that Leads to Rejection of God

1. **Life is random**, evolutionary chance; (God is sovereign & nothing is random)
2. **Truth is relative**, public opinion can be changed, individual rights; (The Bible is absolute truth)
3. **People are Basically Good** – if they go bad then its because of something that happened to them; (people are born sinners)
4. **Everyone has the Power to Change** and Be Whatever you want to be; (only Christ can change your life)
5. **Goal of Life is Self-Satisfaction** - “Happiness, feeling good”; (“deny yourself” is the goal; joy comes from salvation)

God Abandons Israel

Psalm 81:11-16

¹¹ “But My people would not heed My voice,
And Israel would *have* none of Me.

¹² **So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart,
To walk in their own counsels.**

¹³ “Oh, that My people would **listen to Me**,
That Israel would **walk in My ways!**

¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies,
And turn My hand against their adversaries.

¹⁵ The haters of the LORD would pretend submission to Him,
But their fate would endure forever.

¹⁶ He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat;
And with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you.”

Man's Rebellion & Wrath of God

Isaiah 1:2-6

Themes of Isaiah and Romans originates with the Creation & the Fall in Genesis, and discusses Man's Rebellion and the way to Salvation

I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;

³ The ox knows its owner, And the donkey its master's crib;
But Israel does not know, My people do not consider."

⁴ Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers,
Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD,

They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away backward. ⁵ Why should you be stricken again?
You will revolt more and more.

The whole **head is sick**, And the whole **heart faints**.
⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, **There is no soundness in it,**

Summary of God's Wrath & Judgement

Wrath – Why?

(Romans 1:18-24)

1. Revelation – Creation
2. No Thankfulness
3. Rationalization of Sin
“professing to be
wise-fools”
4. False Religion /
Idolatry

Wrath – Results

(Romans 1:24-32)

ABANDONMENT

1. Sexual Immorality
2. Degrading Passions
3. Reprobate Mind – no
conscience/madness
4. All other Sin
5. Approve Sin of Others

**IF YOU REJECT GOD,
GOD REJECTS YOU**

Application Principles

- Principle is that God holds us very responsible for the **Truth** – James 3:1 (teachers). To know the truth and reject it is worse than not knowing it. Not just rejecting truth, but apathy to the truth.
- **Sexual immorality** is the result of rejecting the knowledge of God. Guard your mind from pornography.
- Any conversion to Christ is a miracle of sovereign grace – **a brand plucked from the fire** (Zec 3:2). We were all rescued from the wrath of God.

Today's World

- Family unit is being destroyed
- Sexual immorality is mainstream and has been legislated by many recent laws
- Mental illness and suicide rates of people are higher than ever.
- New laws have made many parts of the Bible illegal, and is considered hate language. Especially the Bible's teachings on Sexual Immorality.
- Church's are being attacked and Christians are being labelled as "haters"

Conclusion

- **Give God Thanks** for the mercy He had on you – for your salvation and knowledge of the truth.
- **Share the Gospel** with a Sense of urgency
- **Confess and repent of your sins daily**
- We are seeing v.24-32 playing out in the world before our very eyes. The human race is in total free fall and the great end times delusion of the Antichrist has begun.
- **Warn others of the Wrath of God before it's too late.**