

SALT Church

Romans 1:28-32

“Licking the Knife”

July 27, 2025

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

David and Cindy

Recap:

Romans 1:16-27

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,

- There is a big difference between shame and ashamed.

for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,

- This is the key verse for everything that will be taught in this book rest upon this statement.

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation

- **The implication is** that we need to be saved from the most destructive force known to man (sin)
- **The implication is** that our salvation can only come through the power of God.
- **The implication is** that salvation is only for those who believe.
 - Remember this for we will be referring to it often as we work our way through this wonderful book

(The gospel)

to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- Salvation came to the Jews first and from the Jews it has spread to the rest of the world.
- Jesus said it would be this way in Acts 1, “You will be my witnesses first in Jerusalem, in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - In other words, you will witness to Jews, more Jews, then to half-Jews, then to the non-Jews.

17 For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous will live by faith.”

- This is the first connection to the righteousness of God and our faith.
- The gospel empowers us to have faith
- Our faith then embraces this power and produces righteousness.
- Most importantly we must see that the two (**faith and righteousness**) feed and grow off of each other.
 - More faith = more righteousness
 - More righteousness = more faith
 - All of it made possible by the power of the gospel message.
 - Which has come to us by the grace of God.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

- Pastor Devin taught us last week about the different kinds of judgement.
 - It is important to note that there is a vast difference between the discipline of God and the wrath of God.
 - Discipline comes with a measure of mercy and is completed in love where wrath comes without mercy, without restraint, and without love.
 - Allow me to illustrate this with a few verses from the Bible:

Hebrews 12:5-7

⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

***“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
Nor faint when you are reprovved by Him;***

***⁶For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,
And He flogs every son whom He receives.”***

⁷It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

We clearly see the love of God within the discipline of God.

- Another good example of Gods love within discipline is found in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹ For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares Yahweh, 'plans for peace and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,' declares Yahweh,

That sounds fantastic!

- But read the whole chapter
 - It is a chapter of love, discipline, and judgement.
 - It is 70 years of captivity under a pagan king and moved to another country.
 - It is the wrath/the judgement of God on false priest and false prophets
 - Some put to death with the sword and others starved to death.
 - **Is it swords, starvation, or lightning bolts?**
 - No, it is much worse than those things.
 - **He turns you over to your sin!** (more on this in a second)

¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly

seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- **How do you see the invisible attributes of God?**

- Let me ask it in another way, if something is invisible how could you possibly see it?

- The answer is you can't, but you can see the effects of invisible things.

- You cannot see the wind, but you can see the effects of the wind.

- You cannot determine where the wind comes from but clearly it comes from somewhere.

- You can't see a virus but you can feel the effects of a virus.

- There is a mystery to it and such is the nature of God.

MORE TRUTH

God's eternal power and divine nature are seen in everything around us.

- The complexity of our universe from the power of the sun to our proximity to it, that perfect balance that keeps us from death and yet sustaining life through all times and ages.
- His divine nature is seen in His ability to create from nothing at all.
- Even the evolutionist cannot tell you where the exploding rock came from.

- We are without excuse because everything around us screams there is a God!

Back to Romans

²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened.

This is a key verse because it shows the progression of the sin of pride.

- 1st you deny God and then it gets worse.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

- My favorite professor in school was a man by the name of Professor Collier.
- He used to say that Satan was brilliant.
 - Brilliantly stupid!
 - So, it is with Satan's children, they too can have a **long list of degrees behind their titles** but if they reject the gospel they too can be put in the category of being brilliantly stupid.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

- The corrupt mind chooses to worship idols of their own creation.
 - Why?

- Because when you define what is god, and you determine how your god acts, at the end of the day you are god.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

- When you refuse truth and choose the lie,
- God gives you over to your sin.
 - **This is the earthly judgement.**
 - This plays out with dishonorable things done with your body and it gets worse.

²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- Verse 25 is a reminder of how foolish we can become.
- **We can become so foolish that we would choose to worship a rock or a bird over the one that created those things.**

²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions; for their females exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

- So, we see the pattern that is followed by those who reject the gospel truth.

- **They reject the one true God** and choose to worship an idol created out of the things that was created by the Creator
- This idol worship then **frees them to follow their lustful and evil hearts.**
- Once they start following their lustful evil hearts anything goes.
- **When the lustful evil heart becomes bored with the natural way it rebels against the natural way and become perverted.**
 - Then the perverted mind which is brilliantly stupid seeks to recruit others in their sin.
 - This leads to a society that embraces things like:
 - Homosexuality
 - Transgender recognition
 - The promotion of sex changes operations in both adults and children
 - Gender reidentification
 - Sex outside of marriage
 - Living together rather than following the Biblical pattern for marriage.
 - Just to name a few...

Now we come to where we left off:

- **Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit makes this most astute observation.**
 - **It is not that the depths of our sin deserve judgement, it's the depths of our sin that is the judgement from God.**
- **So, the progression of sin and destruction is:**

- 1st Refusing or rejecting God
- 2nd God removes the common restraints in your mind
 - Meaning, He removes that part of you that would say, “I’m not going to do this because this is wrong.”
- 3rd Thus, He turns you over to your depraved mind.
- 4th This produces the fruit of a sinful and depraved mind which is found in today’s text:

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, violent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the righteous requirement of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice *them*.

There are 21 sins listed here.

- 21 sins that point to a sinful culture and a sinful people.
- And if we stopped here, it would seem as if there was no hope but we are not going to stop here but rather ask some very important questions:
 - How did we get here?

- Is there hope?
- What do we do?

How did we get here?

- It all starts with rejecting the truth about God.
- The 1st commandment found in Exodus 20 is ***“Thou shall have no other God before Me”***
 - Consider who received these 10 Commandments.
 - They were Israelites who had been in slavery for 400 years in a pagan country that was filled with idols.
 - Many of them were idol worshippers.
 - So, God sets the tone for every command that He would ever demand, and it is the strong foundation that all commands are written. **(No other God before Me!)**
- It is interesting to me that Paul writes these words to the Roman Church that is already known for its devotion to the truth about God.
 - So, why would Paul write these things to a devoted group?
 - The answer is that so they would not soon return to their sin.
 - Paul puts before them the pattern of sin that destroys every time!
 - The 2nd Command found in Exodus 20 is the command to not make for yourself any graven image. **(No idols)**
 - Paul taps into this truth as he reminds the Roman Church and us that idol worship is all around us.
 - He reminds us that the worship of the created over the Creator is foolish and leads to destruction.

- This destruction comes when God hands the sinner over to his depraved mind which ultimately leads to perverted sexually sins and a very distorted view of male and female roles.
 - This soon leads to unspeakable sexual sins that Proverbs mentions as sins that lead to death.
 - Then Paul list 21 sins that are the fruit of someone who has been turned over to the depraved mind.
 - Someone who is under the judgement of God.

Is there hope?

- There most certainly is hope!
- We even find hope in the 10 Commandments
 - For in the 2nd Commandment, we are told that ***the sins of a father can be passed down to the third and fourth generations*** but for those who love the Lord, He will bless thousands of generations.
 - We find hope in the man who was possessed by a legion of demons and Jesus commands them to go out of him.
 - That man goes from that moment and help establish churches in the region that he lived.
 - We find hope in the thief on the cross who had nothing to offer Christ except his sin and Jesus was merciful and forgave him and reassured him that he would be with Him in paradise that very day.

What do we do?

- ***We must embrace the truth of the gospel.***

- Meaning the gospel is more than Jesus died for our sins but rather within the gospel is a command on our lives to be holy like God is holy.

- **Meaning we must separate** ourselves from sin.
- **Meaning we must carefully consider** all things as we move through this journey called life.
- **Meaning we must make disciples** which we ourselves must be equipped to make disciples.
- **Meaning we must devote ourselves** to the teaching of God's Word.
- **Meaning we must devote ourselves** to prayer.
- **Meaning we must devote ourselves** to each other and the mission of this church.
 - That mission is simple:
 - Love God
 - Love people
 - Grow deeper
 - Make disciples

Back to the 21 sins

²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, violent,

arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and although they know the righteous requirement of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice *them*.

This is the world that is all around us.

They are like blood thirsty wolves eager to devour.

I want to close today with a story about Eskimo's and wolves that perfectly illustrates the depraved mind, sin, and destruction.

- When Eskimo's have an issue with wolves or they desire wolves' fur for clothing they have a rather brutal way of killing them.
- They take very sharp knives and dip them in the blood of a recent kill and allow it to freeze making a blood sickle with blade at the center of the blood sickle.
- The wolves are drawn to the scent of the blood.
- They come and begin to lick the frozen blood and in the process their tongues become numb.
- When they make their way down to the razor-sharp blade it is too late.
- Their tongues are repeatedly sliced, creating more blood flow, creating even more licking as their thirst for blood is incredible.
- Before they understand has happened, they bleed to death.

- Sin is like that, it causes more sin which in turn creates more issues and before you realize what is going on you are completely destroyed.
 - For those that need to hear it, PLEASE STOP LICKING THE KNIFE!