

I) V24-25 INTRO: *Therefore* God also gave them up to uncleanness in the lusts

As we begin, Paul has been establishing a case against sinful humanity

He declared God's wrath is directed at those who have rejected Him (V18)

II) V18-23 shows man has willfully *suppressed the truth* in his unrighteousness

They hold back the truth through *wicked efforts* and *reject* it

III) Paul stated that God has revealed Himself through the gospel

It is this message that he was *entrusted* to give, and he was faithful to do so

The *gospel* is the power of God to salvation for all who believe

IV) It is the gospel that reveals to us God's plan of salvation

It is the gospel that when embraced reveals God's power to transform

Ro 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be *transformed* by the *renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

V) In Jesus' early part of His ministry, He went to the synagogue in Nazareth

He was handed the book of Isaiah, opened it, and read a portion of scripture

Lu 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim *liberty* to the captives and *recovery of sight* to the blind, to set at liberty those *who are oppressed*, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

VI) It is the gospel that heals the brokenhearted and gives liberty to captives

It was this gospel that Paul had been entrusted with and to proclaim faithfully

1 Th 2:4 We speak as those approved by God to be entrusted

with the gospel, not in order to please men but God, who examines our hearts.

VII) As a steward in God's house, Paul knew that he must be faithful  
With that in mind, he proclaimed the gospel to the spiritually dead

1 Co 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

VIII) The gospel is God's word, and it is God's word that gives life  
Lu 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God

I) Recently there is a report of revival breaking out at Asbury Seminary  
Feb 8 the seminary held a chapel service, but students remained to worship

The group grew to thousands and this last weekend, 15-20,000 attended

II) Greg Gordon, founder of sermon index, tweeted an update  
Over 20,000 people came to Asbury last night, with 5 overflow buildings and a grass lawn filled. There is a 2.5-mile backup of cars going into Wilmore. Cry out to God for your FIRST LOVE to be renewed  
He later tweeted "Lord, let the fire of Your Spirit fall like latter rain".

He went on to say Don't be a spectator, God change me! God is doing "A deep work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives to prepare us for what is ahead"

III) It was sparked by a sermon on Romans 12 entitled Love in Action  
People from around the country are coming to Asbury  
Some came from Finland, others from the Netherlands

IV) Because the city has a pop. of only 6,000 the services are now off campus

School officials moved God off campus

V) I obviously pray that what is happening is a genuine work of the Spirit

There are those who say anyone questioning if it is God is critical

VI) This obviously ignores scriptures commands concerning this kind of thing

Some say 1 Th 5:19-20 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies

VII) They need to remember 1 Th 5:21 Test all things, hold fast to what is good

VIII) One thing needs to be kept in mind when wondering if it is a genuine revival

**Bill Muehlenberg of Culture Watch wrote:**

**What would it look like if the Church were to experience a true revival? What must the Body of Christ do to get there? First and foremost, "The Word of God is crucial, and we will not see God moving in glorious revival if we do not put the highest priority on Scripture, its proclamation, its reading, and its obedience."**

**Quote: Every revival in the Old Testament rested solidly on a new and powerful proclamation of the word of God**

**The faithful proclamation of *God's word* is the center of all true revivals**

I) 2 Ki 22-23 and 2 Chron 34-35 speak of revival during the time of Josiah

**Josiah became King of Judah at the age of 8 and ruled 31 years**

II) The temple was being repaired when the Book of the Law was discovered

Hilkiah the priest found the Book; he had the book brought to Josiah

III) When it was read to Josiah, he tore his clothes and mourned  
He knew God's wrath was poured out on them for neglecting His word

IV) Josiah gathered the people of Judah and Jerusalem together  
The people, priests, and Levites were gathered, and he read the

law to them

2 Chron 34:33 Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord, the God of their fathers

V) The *earmark* of the revival was a return to the word, repentance, and holiness  
Worship is being promoted at Asbury, but clear teaching isn't

God can move, but changes *that last* is proof *that He did*

VI) Returning to our study!

VII) Paul made it clear man is without excuse because evidence of God is present

V19-23 He provided an inward (conscience) and outward (nature) witness

In spite of this, they continue to willingly reject God

VIII) The result was ungodliness, producing unrighteousness

Ungodliness is living without God, and the fruit of this is an unrighteous life

IX) Conscience and creation reveal His existence, but there is something else

He *fully disclosed* Himself in the incarnation

Heb 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word

I) The meaning of the Incarnation is found in *God's word*, the gospel  
In the gospel God reveals the way of salvation to all who believe

In spite of all His efforts, the majority of men reject His invitation to them

II) Because they refuse to believe His message, they create one they will believe

Man was created with an impulse to worship

III) If he does not worship God, he will create a god to worship

In rejecting God, they became idolaters and worshiped creation

IV) V22 Professing to be wise, they became fools

Instead of worshiping God, they chose to worship their own wisdom

They became philosophers, *lovers of wisdom*

V) Instead of being wise, they became foolish in their opinions and way of life

They became fools, without understanding or sense of morals

VI) V23 They changed (exchanged) the glory of the incorruptible God

They turned to idolatry as their alternative to the incorruptible God

Incorruptible: Immortal; unchanging; imperishable; undecaying

VII) They exchanged the glorious God for images of man

The Greeks had idols made in the likeness of human beings

VIII) V23 He was also depicted as *birds*, four-footed animals, or creeping things

Egyptians had images of *animals*

*Birds*: Horus was a falcon

*Four-footed animals*: the goddess Hathor was depicted as a cow, Anubis a jackal, the goddess Bastet as a cat, the goddess Ammit had the head of a crocodile, the forequarters of a lion or leopard, and the hindquarters of a hippopotamus

*Creeping things*: Ra was depicted as a cobra; Wadjet was a snake goddess

IX) V24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts

God gave them up (Abandoned): Repeated with variations 3

times: V24, 26, 28

X) When men persistently abandoned God, God abandoned them

I) He gave them up to the desires of their impure and rebellious hearts

Ps 81:11-12 But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

II) V25 who exchanged the truth of God *for the lie*, and worshiped and served

They exchanged God who is true and blessed forever for an idol that is a lie

Idolatry is called the lie in the OT because it produces a false hope

Jer 10:14 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metal-smith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

III) *The heart of idolatry* is rejecting the God of truth and pursuing a lie

Like Adam and Eve did in the Garden, desiring the beautiful, delicious fruit that contained secret wisdom that would make them wise

IV) This gives us insight into why God commanded us to reject idolatry

Ex 20:4-5 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me

V) V26 For this reason, God gave them up to *vile* (disgraceful) passions

Paul says the fruit of this is *uncleanness* (The impurity of lustful living)

Man's rejection of God inevitably leads to a pursuit of personal pleasure

VI) The result will inevitably be the *dishonoring* of their bodies among

themselves

His body reaps the consequences of such activity

VII) V26 For this reason God gave them up (surrendered them) to vile passions

Degrading passions, these being among the most disgraceful and repulsive of all passions

These passions include Lesbianism and Homosexuality which *head the list*

VIII) V26 For *even their women* exchanged the natural use for what is against nature

The natural use: Produced by nature, *inborn*; agreeable to nature

I) Against nature: In opposition to that which is natural; the order of nature

Homosexuality and lesbianism is *against nature* and *natural instincts*

II) Because of their insistence on pursuing the rejection of God, He gave them up

He surrendered them to their sinful cravings

III) It is revealing how Paul said *even their women* exchanged the natural use

This is intended to emphasize how terrible things can be

These were passions the Greeks and Romans were well known for

Temple prostitution, sexual immorality, and lesbianism and homosexuality

IV) V27 Likewise also *the men* leaving *the natural use* of the woman burned in their

The natural use of the woman speaks of the purpose of her creation

She can bear children, model modesty, purity, and virtue and exemplify faith

V) The one who does not know God lives an entirely different kind of life

Paul speaks of lust filled hearts, dishonoring their bodies, and vile passions

They exchange the natural use of their bodies for lesbianism

VI) V27 Likewise also the men leaving (*abandoning*) the natural use (relations)

This speaks of an insatiable, perverted lust for men and even boys

VII) We have an example of this when Lot harbored the angels in Sodom

Gen 19:4-5 Now before they (the angels) lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may *know them* carnally.

VIII) V27 Men with men *committing what is shameful* and receiving in themselves the

In rejecting the Lord they will reap the consequences

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he who sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

IX) In not repenting they will never be delivered from their lusts nor find peace

This can only come in realizing the sin, confessing, and repenting

I) There are those who say that Sodom and Gomorrah were judged for inhospitality

Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to *sexual immorality* and *perversion*. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

II) Obviously, today homosexuality is presented and seen as a normal



orientation

It is presented as genetic, a natural condition one is born with  
This simply not verifiable through any unbiased scientific

studies

III) The simple fact is: there is no gay gene

In 1948 Alfred C. Kinsey published a work claiming 10% of the population was homosexual. Experts debunked his claim by pointing out that his data is flawed, in that much of his work was done through interviewing sex offenders, pimps, male prostitutes and prisoners

IV) 2019 Science News reported there is no evidence that a single gay gene exists

A study published on the research on genomes of nearly 500,000 people confirm that there is no single gene that effects sexual behavior. Andrea Ganna, a geneticist at the Broad Institute of MIT, Harvard and the University of Helsinki said: There is no 'gay gene' that determines whether someone has same-sex partners

V) Scripture presents homosexuality as a *chosen* lifestyle

It is a chosen rebellion that results in judgment if not repented  
of

It is the fruit of rejecting God and His giving them over to their  
desires

VI) The Bible presents it as deserving of God's judgment

Lev 18:22 `You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

1 Co 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor *effeminate* (catamites), nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

VII) V27 receiving *in themselves* the penalty of their error which was due  
2022 report by webpage Health: HIV 68% of new HIV diagnoses

I) Gay and bisexual men are at a higher risk for other STI's than others. Chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea significantly increase the risk of getting or transmitting HIV. Evidence suggests that LGBTQ+ people are more likely to have the human papilloma virus (HPV). Gays and bisexual are 20 times more likely than heterosexual men to develop anal

cancer.<sup>6</sup> Certain strains of HPV cause anal cancer. Also, some strains of HPV are the cause of cervical cancer. But it's also a risk factor for anogenital cancers. HPV also links to head and neck malignancies due to transmission of the virus via oral sex.

Research has found that people who identify as lesbian or gay are more than twice as likely as people who identify as heterosexual to abuse alcohol or tobacco. And people who identify as bisexual are three times as likely.

Smoking increases the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other health conditions. In 2016, the National Health Interview Survey found that 20.5% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults smoked. Homosexual and transgender people tend to be more prone to anxiety, depression, suicidality, eating disorders, and substance dependence. Evidence suggests that eating and body image disorders may be more common with LGBTQ+ people

II) V28 *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge God gave*

*Even as:* God giving them up corresponds to their degree of rejection of Him

They *completely* rejected Him, and His punishment corresponds to their sin

They wanted nothing to do with Him and He has nothing to do with them

III) V28 He gave them over to a debased mind

*Debased:* Used of metals that were rejected because of impurities; *worthless*

IV) They refused to hold the truth of God so God gave them over to their evil

Instead of desiring what is pure and excellent, they desired what is twisted

V) V29-32 Being *filled with all unrighteousness*, sexual immorality, wickedness

Paul gives a general statement and then a list of things *unrighteous*

V29 evil minded: malevolent...whisperers: gossips

V30 backbiters: slanderers

V31 inventors of (new forms of) evil: they contrive new ways to do evil

I) V31 *undiscerning*: without wisdom

II) V32 who *knowing* the righteous judgment of God that those who practice

They are aware that there is a judgment being preached, but don't care

2 Pe 3:4 They will say, Where is this coming He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation

III) V32 they not only do the same *but also approve* of those who practice them

They approve of those who do these things (giving them high ratings)

We give them Pulitzers, Nobel Prizes, Oscars, Emmys, Tony's, Billboard awards and Grammys

IV) This is our mission field

Mt 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.