

4/25/10

The Evil And Darkness of Man
Rom. 1:18-32

As we examine this section of Romans, we will see man is presented in one of a most depraved and degrading descriptions found in the Scriptures.

This section of mans depravity and lost state has been divided up neatly and for the most part it has been helpful but not all together accurate.

1. Chapter one has been said to deal with the condition of the gentile.
2. Chapter two with the condition of the Jews.
3. Chapter three with the universal guilt of man.

But a closer look at these chapters reveal a much more intricate intertwining of Jew and Gentile.

1. The gentiles are certainly the most obvious in the first chapter, but the Jew can not be excluded for they were judged by God for their idolatry in the past. Rom. 1:18-2:10
2. The Gentiles and Jews are compared and contrasted, as to the law and conscience. Rom. 2:11-16
3. The Jew had greater responsibility, due to the law and their misunderstanding about circumcision. Rom. 2:17-3:8

4. The universal failure due to sin is of both Jew and Gentile, the verdict is that the entire world stand guilty before God. Rom. 3:9-20
5. The righteousness of God is revealed through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe, excluding all boasting. Rom. 3:21-31

Paul has declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
* All of mankind must understand there is but one way to be reconciled to God, through repentance for the forgiveness of sins, it is the righteousness of Jesus, due to His death and resurrection, the atonement.

Now Paul proceeds to reveal that all of mankind is rebellious, rejecting God by the sin of unbelief, from three vantage points. Rom. 1:18-32

- I. Man is inexcusable for his sin of unbelief. vs. 18-21d
 - II. Man is reaping to his sin of unbelief. vs. 21e-23
 - III. Man is given up for his sin of unbelief. vs. 24-32
- I. Man is inexcusable for his sin of unbelief. vs. 18-21d**

- A.** Man is under the wrath of God for his rebellion against God. vs. 18
- 1.** The response of God to this rebellion is His wrath.
 - * “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven.” vs. 18a
 - a.** The word for “gar” looks back to verse 16-17, explaining why God has provided the way of salvation, man is under the wrath of God.
 - 1)** There are two words in Greek used for wrath, one is “thumos”, means anger, a panting rage from the root “to breathe violently, this is not the word used in our text.
 - 2)** The word for wrath is “orge” signifying indignation that has risen gradually and become more settled, indicating the patience of God with sinners.
 - * A key word, appearing 12 times in the letter. Rom. 1:18, 2:5 (2x’s), 8, 3:5, 4:15, 5:9, 9:22 (2x’s), 12:19, 13:4, 5
 - 3)** Thayers says, “it is God standing opposed to man’s disobedience, obduracy, especially in resisting the gospel, and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same.”

- b.** This wrath is revealed from heaven, affirming it’s origin from God.
 - 1)** The word revealed “apokalupto” means to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up.
 - 2)** The tense is the indicative present passive, literally, is being revealed.
 - 3)** This is evident by the record of the many occasions of God’s judgment, throughout history and is ongoing to the present day.
 - 4)** The judgment on Cain, the flood of Noah, as well as some in our present day, we just do not know, which one’s are at the direct hand of God.
- 2.** The wrath of God is against the sinful conduct of man, identified as two-fold.
 - * “against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.” vs. 18a
 - a.** Ungodliness “asebeia”, means lack of reverence towards God, which is sin against God.
 - 1)** The qualifier is “all”, not exception, for God is holy and can not look upon sin with approval. Hab. 1:13
 - 2)** The ungodliness of man is evidence of his rebellion against God, revealing his evil heart. Jer. 17:9

- b. Unrighteousness “adikia”, means injustice, be it in thought, word or deed, sinning against man.
 - 1) The qualifier again is “all”, not exception.
 - 2) Ungodliness is always the root of all unrighteousness, like the first table of the law man’s relationship to God came first then the second, man’s relationship to man.
 - 3) Ungodliness and unrighteousness stand in sharp contrast to the man of faith, reconciled to God. Rom. 1:17
- 3. The wrath of God revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, is due to men not keeping the word of God.
 - * “who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” vs. 18b
 - a. These men suppressed the truth.
 - 1) The word suppress “katecho,” means to restrain, hinder, hold back or press down. 2Thess. 2:6
 - 2) The word truth “aletheia”, means what is true in any matter under consideration.
 - 3) Our context is things pertaining to God and the duties of man.
 - 4) The idea is the refusal to acknowledge the truth of God in

- one’s life or to allow it to be proclaimed.
- 3. The manner in which man does this is said to be unrighteousness “adikia”, injustice.
 - a. The implication is the they possessed and understood the truth about God.
 - b. They acted in opposition to what they knew about God.
 - c. They prevented the truth about God to be declared by distorting, twisting and misrepresenting it’s true intent, purpose and meaning.
- B. Man is under the wrath of God because he rejects the obvious evidence made available to him about God in creation. vs. 19-20
 - 1. Paul declared that God has been faithful to provide man evidence for His existence by man’s creation. vs. 19
 - * “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. vs. 19a
 - a. Paul in one way is saying, God is unknowable, man can not know Him or discover Him, the same way man comes to the know other things.
 - 1) God is transcendent, He is beyond our knowing and understanding completely by our intellect.
 - 2) God is Spirit, not physical.

- b.** Paul says that what may be known of God is manifested in them.
- 1) The word manifest “Phaneros”, is to make evident or apparent.
 - * The same word is used by Jesus regarding charitable deed, prayer and fasting, to do them in secret and He will reward us “openly”. Matt. 6:4, 6, 18
 - 2) Paul is saying God has openly revealed this evidence “in them”, they are created beings.
 - a) As I thought on this verse, I wonder if the phrase “in them”, could refer to the evidence of creation of their own bodies.
 - b) So marvelous and distinct from the animal kingdom.
- c.** Paul declared, “for God had shown it to them.” vs. 19b
- 1) The word shown “phaneroo”, means to make visible.
 - 2) Referring to the evidence of their physical bodies and pointing forward to the evidence of the material creation in the next verse.
- 2.** Paul declared that God has been faithful to provide man evidence of His existence by the existence of the visible creation. vs. 20

- a.** The physical creation of God from the beginning of time has pointed to a Creator. vs. 20a
- * “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen.”
- 1) The phrase clearly seen “kathorao” means to see thoroughly, perceive and understand.
 - * This is the only time it appears in the New Testament.
 - 2) Able to examine the complexity, variety and intricacy of creation and concluding, it was no accident.
- c.** The physical creation of God provides visible evidence of His invisible attributes, allowing man to understand two things about the Creator. vs. 20b-c
- * “being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.”
- 1) Man can clearly see God’s eternal power “aidios dunamis”, which means all that God is in nature and His attributes, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent etc.
 - 2) Man can clearly see God’s Godhead “theiotes”, which means Divinity, that He is God.

- 3) The word appears only this time in the New Testament.
* Jesus is the visible form of the invisible God. Col. 1:15
- d. The conclusion of all this evidence is that man is accountable to God. vs. 20d
* “so that they are without excuse.”
- 1) Man is without excuse for what may be known of God by creation, His eternal power and Godhead.
 - 2) Man has witnessed this throughout the history, exposing man’s guilt.
 - 3) This is called “general or natural revelation”, which includes the evidence of, creation, conscience and history.
 - 4) General or natural revelation provides sufficient evidence for the existence of God, but not to redeem them, that is revealed through “special revelation”, in the person and righteousness of Christ. Rom. 1:16-17

C. Man has acted contrary to the knowledge he possesses about God. vs. 21a-d

1. Man did not acknowledge the glory, due to God as God, though they knew the truth about God. vs. 21a-c

- * “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful.”
- a. He did not give God His rightful place, as God has revealed, knowing He is God.
 - b. He did not give God the honor and worship due, according to His glory in the revelation of creation.
2. Man did not express his gratitude to God, as God, though they knew the truth about God. vs. 21d
* “but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- a. He didn’t acknowledge his gratefulness to God, for creating him.
 - b. He didn’t acknowledge his gratefulness to God, for his life and daily provisions.
 - c. He didn’t acknowledge his gratefulness to God for the evidence of creation, to reveal His existence.
* The wrath of God is revealed from heaven because man is without excuse about his sin of unbelief!

Illustration

The many people that get D.U.I’s is unbelievable, you would think, they would learn but not so, until they kill someone, being inexcusable.

Application

1. The world knows of the record of creation and Adam and Eve, but they mock it as fable.

* “Because the carnal **mind** is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” Rom. 8:7

2. The world knows about the judgment of God on the earth by the flood, but instead they corrupt it to teach the progressive development of man through time, despite all the fossil record throughout the world.

* “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2Thess. 2:9

3. Listen to God speaking to man through His megaphone.

* “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle

for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.” Ps. 19:1-6

4. The world also knows about the rebellion against God at the tower of Babel and its judgment, but people ridicule it and think it is a myth.

* “The **fool** has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.” Ps. 14:1

Man is inexcusable for his sin of unbelief!

II. Man is reaping to his sin of unbelief. vs. 21e-23

A. Man became vain in his thinking, as a result of rejecting, denying and acting contrary to the knowledge of God he possessed. vs. 21e

* “but became futile in their thoughts.”

1. Paul declared man has fallen short of his original creation.

a. The word futile “mataioo”, means to make empty, devoid of force, truth, or success.

b. The idea is that of not measuring up to what something should be, appearing only this time in this form.

- c. God created man to know Him, fellowship with Him and worship Him.
- 2. Paul declared man became hostile towards God.
 - a. The word thoughts “dialogismos”, means the thinking of a man deliberating with himself.
 - b. The thinking of fallen man empty and argumentative towards God and the things of God.
 - * God pleaded with Cain to repent of his wrong thoughts and attitude and he would be excepted, but rejected it. Gen. 4
 - c. The apostle Paul is saying that the result of man's failure to acknowledge God is that his capacity to perceive the things of God on the level of natural revelation become an empty conclusions that fall way short of his created potential.
 - * The natural man does not receive the things of God, but thinks they are foolishness. 1Cor. 2:14
- B. Man became harden in his heart to a greater degree as a result of rejection, denying and acting contrary to the knowledge of God he possessed. vs. 21d
 - * “and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

- 1. Paul declared man is blind to spiritual truth.
 - a. The word foolish, “asuntos”, means unintelligent, without understanding, void of spiritual discernment.
 - 1) The proverbs contrast the “fool” and “wise”, throughout the book.
 - 2) The word was used by Jesus to His disciples, “Are you also without understanding?” Matt. 15:16
 - 3) The refusal to think right, results in the loss of the ability to think right.
 - b. The same word is found in verse 31, translated “undiscerning”.
 - * This is one of the characteristics of sinful man, living in rebellion against God.
- 2. Paul declared this foolish inability to discern spiritual things is related to the heart of man.
 - a. The word heart “Kardia”, is used for the seat of the intellect, emotions and the will, the place where moral choices are made.
 - 1) The intellect of the natural man is at war with God.
 - 2) The emotions of the natural man are subject to his own desire and pleasure to please himself and used to abuse and manipulate others and advantage themselves.

- 3) The will of the natural man is all about him, the trinity of darkness, “me, myself and I”.
 * “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.” Eph. 4:17-18
- b. The heart of man is darkened.
- 1) The word darkened “skotizw” ,simply means to be covered the darkness, depriving light to enter in.
 - 2) The word is used for the last days in the Great-Tribulation, the sun will be darkened. Matt. 24:29
 - 3) The apostle again declares the result of man's failure to acknowledge God is that he not only loses that light which has been given to him but he moves in a downward direction to greater darkness.
 * Jesus affirmed Jeremiah, “For out of the heart proceed **evil** thoughts, murders, adulteries,

fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” Matt. 15:19, Jer. 17:9

- C. Man professed himself to be wise, as a result of rejecting, denying and acting contrary to the knowledge of God he possessed. vs. 22
 * “Professing to be wise, they became fools.”
1. Paul reveals that the vain and distorted view man has about himself is self-defeating,
 * “professing to be wise”.
 - a. The word professing “phasko” means to affirm or allege.
 - 1) This is man’s own assessment about himself.
 - 2) The source is pride, self-confidence.
 - b. The word wise “sophos”, means skilled, cultivated and learned.
 - 1) Having the ability to come to the right and best conclusion.
 - 2) Man becomes his own judge and jury.
 2. Paul reveals the self-deception of man about himself, “they became fools”.
 - a. The basic problem is clear.
 - 1) This is the result of man now being in greater darkness.

- 2) Their rebellion increasing their hardened heart, resulting in greater blindness.
 - 3) The end result will be that his perception about himself, is warped and self glorifying.
 - * It's like a blind man attempting to describe himself!
 - b. The outcome in reality was that they became fools.
 - 1) The word for fools "moraino", means to be silly, we get our word moron from the noun form "moros", which means dull, sluggish and could be interpreted stupid.
 - 2) The scriptures are clear as to the difference between the wisdom of man and that of God. 1Cor. 1:20-22, 2:13-16, 3:18-20, Col. 2:3
- D.** Man changed the glory of God into images, as a result of rejecting, denying and acting contrary to the knowledge of God he possessed. vs. 23
- * "and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."
 - 1. Paul declared man manifested the fruit of his foolishness.

- a. Man swapped the Creator for the creation.
 - 1) Exchanging the glory "doxa", splendor and brightness and majesty of God for fallen and marred creation.
 - 2) The word changed "allasso", means to cause one thing to cease and another to take it's place.
- b. Man concludes there is no value or worth in a holy incorruptible God, seeing more value and worth in corruptible man and animals.
 - 1) Being spiritually deprived.
 - 2) Being spiritually blind.
 - 3) Being spiritually rebellious.
- 2. Man has rejected the invisible and incorruptible God and replace Him with visible and corruptible ones images.
 - a. Degrading the nature of God.
 - b. Degrading the created order of man.
 - c. Degrading the worship of God.
- 3. The list is in a descending order.
 - a. Man went from monotheism to polytheism.
 - b. Man went for the worship of God to the worship self and the creation.
 - 1) Israel was guilty of this, even as Aaron carved out the golden calf. Ex. 32, Ps. 106:19-21

- 2) God warned Israel about idolatry.
Deut. 4:15-19
- 3) The prophet Jeremiah charges Israel with their folly, “Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate,” says the LORD. “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.” Jer. 2:11-13
- * The wrath of God is revealed from heaven by man reaping to his sin of unbelief!

Illustration

Sow a thought, reap an act.
Sow an act, reap a deed.
Sow a deed, reap a habit.
Sow an habit, reap a destiny.

Application

1. Man is incurably evil and a rebel by nature, a sinner.
* This is God’s verdict, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and

- that every intent of the **thoughts** of his heart was only evil continually.” Gen. 6:5
2. Man has the capacity for the most evil sins, in thought, word or deed.
* He is called a child of the devil, children of wrath by nature and disobedient children. Eph. 2:1-2
3. Man chooses what he sows, but not what he reaps.
* “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7-8
4. The problem is that man thinks he is going to live forever when young, but without warning death strikes.
* The man with his barns,...Fool, you souls ...Lk. 12:13-21

Man is reaping to his sin of unbelief!

III. Man is given up for his sin of unbelief. vs. 24-32

- A. God gave man up to their sinful life-styles of uncleanness. vs. 24-25
* “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves.”

1. Paul declared the verdict of God over rebellious man. vs. 24
 - a. The Phrase gave them up “paradidomi”, means to be delivered or given into the hands of another, into one’s own power.
 - 1) Three times God says He gave them up. vs. 24, 26, 28
 - 2) Each progressing to a more degrading life-style.
 - b. God gave man over to uncleanness.
 - 1) The word uncleanness “akatharsia”, means perversions, impurities of lust in general, usually sexual in nature, found with fornication. Eph. 5:3
 - 2) Often depicted in lewd pornography drawings and carving on walls or furniture.
 - 2) These first two depict acts!
 - c. The source of this craving is the heart of man, being given up to it’s power.
 - d. The end result is that they dishonor their own bodies among themselves.
 - * The consequences of such life-styles is due to God’s wrath, as the continue to harden their hearts and grow more depraved!
2. Paul declared the reason for God giving them up to uncleanness. vs. 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.”
- b. They exchange the truth of God for “the lie”.
 - 1) The truth of God is that man is to worship and serve God, who is blessed forever and be blessed by God.
 - a) The article is present “the truth”, indicating God’s revelation.
 - b) Four times it is mentioned that they change God’s intended design. vs. 23, 25, 26, 27
 - 2) The lie is that man worships and serves the creature, rather than the Creator and is under His wrath and damned.
 - a) Notice “the lie” also has the article, could this be an allusion to the lie of Satan to Eve, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Gen. 3:4-5
 - b) An idol is nothing, having eyes they can not see, handle, etc. 1Cor. 8:4, Ps. 115:1-8

B. God gave them up to a degrading life-styles of vile passions. vs. 26-27

1. Paul declared the verdict of God again, first regarding the woman. vs. 26

* “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.”

a. The phrase vile passions “atimia pathos”, means” and describes more than mere evil lust, but a de ceased condition that is ungoverned or out of control.

1) That which is dishonorable.

2) That which is inordinate in affection, a disgrace.

b. The woman “thelus”, literally females, not the usual word for woman “june”.

1) The charge is they exchanged the natural use sexually for other women, which is contrary to nature, lesbianism.

2) A perversion of God’s created design. Lev. 18:22, 20:13

a) Redefining God’s design.

b) Reversing God’s function for the woman.

c) Resulting in confusion and disorder in society.

2. Paul declared the verdict of God regarding the men. vs. 27

* “Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

a. The men fall under the same category, “vile passions”, the word likewise indicates his to be so. vs. 27a

1) Their sin is likewise dishonorable.

2) Their sin is likewise inordinate in affection, a disgrace.

b. The charge is they left the natural heterosexual relations with women, for homosexual relations. vs. 27a

1) The men “arrhen”, literally male, not the usual word for men “anthropos”. vs. 27a

2) Their sin is described, burning “ekkaio” to set on fire, in their lust for one another, men with men, committing what is shameful “aschemosune”, meaning unseemling.

3) A perversion of God’s created design. Lev. 18:22, 20:13

a) Redefining God’s design.

b) Reversing God’s function for the man.

- c) Resulting in confusion and disorder in society.
- c. The consequences of such a life is stated clearly.
 - 1) They receive to themselves the penalty “antimisthia”, meaning recompense , their reward, their reaping to such a life-style.
 - 2) The reason is given by the word error “plane”, which means wondering, roving or diverting.
 - 3) The commentary of Paul, under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit is, which was “due” “dei” means fitting.
 - 4) This speaks of the consequences of God giving them up to vile passions, which medically are horrendous!

C. God gave them up to a debased or reprobate minds. vs. 28-31

1. The final giving up is the result of their not wanting to retain God in the full and complete knowledge they possessed. vs. 28a
 - a. They did not like to retain “dokimazo”, meaning to put to the test for approval, but failing the test are rejected.

- b. They refused to approve God as God, so God refuses to approve them.
2. The phrase debase mind means the mind that is disapproved and incapable of discharging the function pertaining to the things of God. vs. 28b
 - a. The word debased “adokimos” means not standing the test, not approved.
 - b. The test is the word of God for all mankind, according to His design and standards.
3. The result is that they end up doing things that are not fitting “katheko”, which means not appropriate, contrary to God’s design. vs. 28c
 - a. Every form of ungodly thought, word and deed.
 - b. Every form of unrighteous thought, word and deed.
4. The natural outcome is degeneration on a continuing downward spiral of sin, manifesting a life that is full of unrighteousness, towards and with one’s fellow-man in society. vs. 29-31
 - a. The phrase being filled “pleroo” and means filled to the top, the ongoing life they live in sin to the fullest.
 - b. This is the perfect participle, past completed action with present results.
 - * They feel comfortable and at home!

5. The list of sins involve thoughts, acts and deed of ungodliness and unrighteousness, which depicts depraved man. vs. 29b-31
- a. This one of many in the New Testament, 23 in number.
 - b. These are the manifestation of the works of the flesh. Gal. 5
 - c. The list begins with the misuse and abuse of the most sacred gift between a husband and wife, sexual immorality which is fornication, dealing with every aspect of sexuality not just inter-course.
* The word is “porneia”, which pornography comes from.
 - d. Wickedness “poneria”, means an inclination to evil and taking pleasure.
 - e. Covetousness “pleonexia”, means a desire to have what someone else has.
 - f. Maliciousness “kakia”, means a disposition to injure and get revenge.
 - g. Full of envy “phthones”, means jealousy for what others have.
 - h. Murder “phonos”, is the taking of a life.
 - i. Strife “eris”, is arguing always.
 - j. Deceit “dolos” is to disguise the truth so as to fool someone.
 - k. Evil-minded “kakoetheia”, means to hurt others just for pleasure.

- l. Whisperers “psithuristes”, means gossipers and slanderers in secret.
- m. Backbiters “katalalos”, means to speak evil of one to another.
- n. Haters of God “theostuges”, is a reference to being hateful to one God.
- o. Violent “hubristes”, is uncontrollable destructive outbursts.
- p. Proud “huperephanos”, refers to the arrogance of man in self-confidence.
- q. Boasters “alazon”, is self exaltation of their achievement and abilities.
- r. Inventors of evil things “epheuretes”, refers to anything that discredits God or man and corrupt man.
- s. Disobedient to parents “apeithes”, means unruly and unsubmitive to the most natural authority.
- t. Undiscerning “asunetos”, means without understanding.
- u. Untrustworthy “asunthetos”, means a person not of his word, literally not of covenant.
- v. Unloving “astorgos”, means without natural affection regarding the family.
- w. Unforgiving “raspondos”, is refusing to release a person when there is genuine repentance, holding a grudge.
- x. Unmerciful “aneleemon”, means having a lack a compassion and pity for those who are downtrodden.

6. The guilt of man is not only in committing such acts but in enjoying them in others. vs. 32
- a. Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that such deserve death. vs. 32a
 - b. Not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. vs. 32b
 - 1) Man has responsibility to God.
 - 2) Man has accountability to God.

* The wrath of God is revealed from heaven by giving men and women up to their sinful life-styles of unbelief !

Illustration

There use to be a bumper-sticker that read, “Jesus is coming, stick out your tongue”, Today people are reprobates and God-haters.

Application

1. The most corrupt and vile person is not void of the knowledge of God, they just refuse to acknowledge God and His standards.
* “For this they **willfully** forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water.” 2Pet. 3:5
2. All of mankind knows the judgments of God, but ignores them and continues to act as if God does not matter.
3. Every society in history has manifested decay and degenerousy, to the extent that wickedness,

demands to be approve, accepted and applauded, but only Jesus can transform our hearts.

* “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 **homosexuals, nor sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1Cor. 6:9-11

4. The judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah is no myth, but fact. Gen. 19

* “And the LORD said, “Because the outcry against **Sodom** and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave.” Gen. 19

5. The natural consequences of an ungodly life-style can not be escaped in life, nor the judgment of God at His judgment.

* “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.” Col. 3:5-6

Man is given up for his sin of unbelief!

Conclusion

Paul has revealed all of mankind as rebellious, rejecting God by the sin of unbelief:

- I.** Man is inexcusable for his sin of unbelief!
- II.** Man is reaping to his sin of unbelief!
- III.** Man is given up for his sin of unbelief!