

The Results of Exchanging the Truth for the Lie: 2
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Text: Romans 1:28-32

Romans: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: The Guilt of Mankind

Central Idea of Message: Men and women are free to receive or to reject God's self-disclosure, but men and women are unable to alter the consequences which necessarily accompany their choices.

Introduction: Sin begins when light is neglected or rejected (cf. Thomas 74). In the previous few verses, we learned that people do know about the one Creator God. We also learned that most humans suppress this knowledge and choose, instead, to worship created things rather than the Creator.

Further, we saw that rebellion against God results in God giving over the mutinous ones to the lusts of their own hearts, to impurity and to dishonoring their own bodies, because they exchange the truth of God for the lie.

Finally, we saw that rebellion against God results in being given over to degrading passions, like homosexuality.

Human power is limited, not in our freedom to choose, but in our ability to alter the consequences of our choices. There is no separating choice from result. The two always go together.

I. People Rebelling against God's Revelation Are Being Given Over to a Depraved Mind (v. 28)

A. Most did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer

1. Tested God at first and had full knowledge, but turned aside: they had definite information
2. Did not think God worth knowing (cf. Vincent 3:21)
3. To put God out of our mind: functional atheism
4. **"It is God's function to judge, but men have usurped that prerogative in order to sit in judgement on him and dismiss him from their lives" (Harrison 26)**
5. To banish God from our minds is to lose our "essential humanity," because we were created in the image of him whom we have expelled (cf. Barclay 39)

- B. **Such a rebel attitude is given over to a reprobate mind**
1. **"Reprobate mind" means depraved, condemned, degenerate thinking which is severely impaired regarding moral and ethical discernment in its present state of being conformed to the world and in desperate need of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for transformation (cf. Rom. 12:2)**
 2. Unfit, worthless, unapproved mind
 3. Intentional casting down of God in the mind results in perversion of mind
 4. **Anarchy and chaos come from a mind that removes God from its knowledge (cf. Mickelsen 1187)**
 5. In estrangement from God, speculation displaces perception (cf. v. 21; cf. Moody 172)
 6. **Those rejecting God are rejected by God**
- C. **Given over to do what is improper**
1. Left to do what is unfitting
 - a) The only way they could have known what was not proper was to know what was proper
 - b) **Romans 1 depicts basic human nature which knows proper from improper and right from wrong, yet chooses wrong**
 2. Left in the ominous darkness of unrestrained animal impulses (cf. Robertson 4:331)
 3. Putting God out of mind creates a vacuum resulting in the following consequences
 4. "These ancient wrongs have a modern ring to them" (MacGorman, *Everyman's*, 33)

II. **The Results of Being Given Over to a Depraved Mind (vv. 29-31)**

- A. **Being filled with unrighteousness (vv. 29-31)**
1. Unrighteousness: falsehood, deceitfulness (v. 29)
 2. Wickedness: evil disposition (v. 29)
 3. Greed: covetousness, urge to acquire more (v. 29)
 4. Evil: malevolent, sinister, vile with "ethical overtones" (v. 29; cf. Harrison 26)
 5. Envy: jealousy, spite (v. 29)
 6. Murder: slaughter (v. 29)
 7. Strife: contention (v. 29)
 8. Deceit: fraud, guile (v. 29)
 9. Malice: vicious disposition (v. 29)
 10. Gossips: secret slanderers (v. 29)
 11. Slanderers (v. 30)
 - a) Open character assassination

- b) Seeking to ruin the reputation of another
- 12. Haters of God: hateful to God (v. 30)
- 13. Insolent: violent, injurious (v. 30)
- 14. Arrogant: stuck up (v. 30)
- 15. Boastful: ostentatious, pretentious (v. 30)
- 16. Inventors of evil (v. 30)
- 17. Disobedient to parents (v. 30)
 - a) **Disobedience to parents is included in the roll call of ungodliness and unrighteousness and is both an ancient and modern phenomenon**
 - b) Children are to obey parents in the Lord (Eph. 6:1): kid jokes
 - c) Too often does the tail wag the dog in the family unit
- B. **Being without understanding** (v. 31)
 - 1. Without discernment
 - 2. Lack of high moral quality (cf. Arndt 118)
 - 3. Faithless (unbeliever)
 - 4. Does not start out this way but becomes darkened (v. 21) through rejection of God and God's revealed truths
 - 5. **The irony that those with the least understanding in a certain topic often talk as if they have the most understanding in that certain topic has long been evident in human interaction**
- C. **Being untrustworthy** (v. 31)
 - 1. **Being untrustworthy means being false to our commitments**
 - 2. **Being untrustworthy also means to "treat covenants as a scrap of paper" (cf. Robertson 4:333)**
 - a) Marriage
 - b) Salvation
 - c) Church*
- D. **Being unloving** (v. 31)
 - 1. Unmerciful: cruel
 - 2. Missing love for kindred (cf. Robertson 4:333)
 - 3. Without natural affection
 - a) Especially of parents for children and children for parents (cf. Vines 39)
 - b) **"There was never a night when there were not thirty or forty abandoned children left in the Roman forum...children were considered a misfortune" (Barclay 46)**

- c) **Where natural affection is lacking, both infanticide and abortion will be common (cf. Cragg 403)**
- E. **Knowing but rejecting the ordinance of God (v. 32)**
 - 1. Ordinance: judgment, decree, Ten Commandments, rights and wrongs
 - a) Ignorance cannot be claimed
 - b) Reprobation does not erase this knowledge
 - c) Reprobation does not render one unable to respond to God's truth
 - d) **The human mind and will have been damaged by sin but not destroyed**
 - e) All, including the perverted, know God condemns such evil practices as these which are listed
 - 2. Knowing the penalty
 - a) Unrepentance brings death (cf. Rom. 6:23)
 - b) But they say, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die"
 - 3. Do the same as those practicing unrighteousness
 - 4. **Give approval, even applause, to those practicing unrighteousness: Christians must never defend any of these sinful activities but must, rather, denounce them as depravity in action**
 - 5. **We sinners are not inexcusably ignorant but, rather, are inexcusably guilty and responsible (cf. Barrett 41)**
 - 6. **"Is it not remarkable that so much of what the Bible calls reprobation, modern man calls either an illness or an alternate life-style?" (MacGorman, *Everyman's*, 34)**
 - 7. **Unfortunately, many show no interest in God's grace until tasting sin's disgrace**
 - a) Everybody in hell is interested in God's grace
 - b) Everybody in sin ought to be interested in God's grace right now, before it is too late

Conclusion: In due time, empires like Rome perished, because "disaster and degeneracy went hand in hand" (Barclay 47).

Now is the time for you to exchange your sin for the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Today is the day for you to exchange your idolatry for worship of the one, true, Creator God.

Disbarring sin and worldly conformity from your life and letting your mind be renewed by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit are long overdue, because herein lies your only hope.