

No More Excuses

Part 4

October 22, 2017

I **SLIDE** God's Wrath

A) Two important points

- 1) Glorify Him as God
- 2) Thank Him

B) The Result: **Romans 1:22-23 (NIV)** ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

C) Praise reports do both: they glorify God by thanking Him

II **SLIDE** Therefore....

A) Definition

- 1) For that reason
- 2) Denotes a logical consequence

B) Logical

- 1) Not emotional or random
- 2) Paul tells us that our actions have consequences that are based upon God's unchanging nature
- 3) God does not randomly act here but not there
- 4) **Matthew 5:44-45 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- 5) Thus, we have no excuse because God has made Himself known and has made the consequences known

C) **SLIDE** Consequences

- 1) **Proverbs 5:22 (NIV)** His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin.

- 2) We are captured by own iniquities
 - a) Harvey Weinstein
 - b) Bernie Madoff
- 3) Funny thing about consequences: when we blame them on others, we keep making the same mistakes
- 4) When we see them as a logical consequence of our actions, then we can change
- 5) Almost daily we see people blame others for the consequences of their actions
- 6) I am not saying that others cannot hurt or influence us.
- 7) But Paul is talking about the consequences that result from our own actions
- 8) My college days
 - a) My actions led to the university's decision
 - b) OSU did not arbitrarily pick on me
 - c) They had guidelines, known to me
 - d) God has guidelines, known to all
 - e) Disregard those guidelines, and we pay the consequences

III **SLIDE** Therefore.... Consequences

- A) **Romans 1:24 (NIV)** ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.
- B) **Romans 1:24 (ICB)** ²⁴ People were full of sin, wanting only to do evil. So God let them go their sinful way. They became full of sexual sin, using their bodies wrongly with each other.
- C) **SLIDE** Consequence
 - 1) God stops trying to restrain us
 - 2) He does not give people permission to sin, but He does lift His hand
 - 3) Sin will never stop being sin, and the wages of sin will never stop being death

- 4) However, when God removes His hand, people indulge the flesh, call evil, good, and seek to hide the truth
- 5) People can't see consequences because they can't see the wrong
- 6) Cox family
 - a) The Cox family listed their home for sale while still living there
 - i) One night they went to a friend's house for dinner
 - ii) While they were gone, a group of teenagers broke into the house and threw a wild, drunken party
 - iii) The house was trashed.
 - iv) Teenagers posted videos because they were not ashamed
 - b) Middle School Football team
 - i) Posted racist, sexually charged video
 - ii) Rest of season canceled
 - c) Sensitivity training is not the answer
 - d) We cannot see the consequences because we do not acknowledge God
- 7) As in Judges, we begin to do whatever is right in OUR eyes instead of what is right in GOD'S eyes
- D) **SLIDE** One major consequence of God's lifting His hand is sexual impurity
 - 1) Examples
 - a) Clothing
 - b) PG 13 movies can show nudity but can't show people smoking
 - c) Television; Celebrities; Removed gender identifications
 - d) Redefined marriage to meet any definition people want
 - e) Going without clothes is now a RIGHT
 - 2) Two examples earlier
 - a) Party - had sexual aspects
 - b) MS football video - sexual aspects
 - 3) We don't build a wall between them and us; we tear down the wall
 - 4) We are to go into this world and reveal the truth that others have hidden
 - 5) We bless and do not curse