

Doing What Ought Not To Be Done  
November 5, 2017

I **SLIDE** Furthermore....

A) **Romans 1:28 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

- 1) They did not think it was worthwhile, valuable, useful to retain the knowledge of God
- 2) Retain
  - a) To have and hold
  - b) Implies **continuing** possession
  - c) We have and hold the word in our hearts, minds and spirits
  - d) We are to think of God, to serve Him, to adore, praise and thank Him continually

B) **SLIDE** Get ready

- 1) We said last week that this message would offend everyone
- 2) Paul is not talking about a specific sin in this portion of his letter
- 3) He is not talking about them vs. us
- 4) He is talking about our need - about everyone's need - for Jesus
- 5) Too often people get into theological, religious, Biblical discussions without mentioning Jesus
- 6) They will refer to Jesus to support their views
- 7) Jesus did not die on that cross so we could win an argument or justify ourselves

C) Who is "They"?

- 1) Paul is talking about those who have rejected Christ, who choose to indulge the flesh, who know God but ignore Him
- 2) He is speaking about a people who refuse to bow their knees to God and who insist they know better
- 3) They are pagans, degenerates, unbelievers
- 4) The Jews were not part of that group;
- 5) We are not part of that group

## II **SLIDE** Nevertheless....

A) **Romans 2:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- 1) Paul goes from "they" to "you"
- 2) Paul is now addressing the Jews
- 3) He is now addressing us
- 4) What?! We do the same things!

B) **SLIDE** Self-righteousness

- 1) The Jews felt they were on solid ground because of who they were, because they kept the law, because they acknowledged God
- 2) They were passing judgment on the Gentiles, which hardened their hearts toward them
- 3) Thus, the Jews felt no compassion for the Gentiles
- 4) Paul is addressing those who feel they are good with God and don't need to work on their relationship
- 5) They are comfortable with their salvation and see themselves as better than others
- 6) They
  - a) ...hear a good message and wish so-and-so were there to hear it
  - b) ...agree that the word applies to everyone else but not necessarily to them
- 7) High school
  - a) As I have said before, I was an excellent high school student
  - b) Received awards - was at the top of my class - received numerous scholarships
  - c) I knew of other students who struggled and who were failing
  - d) They flunked classes that I Aced
  - e) I would remark that they would never make it in college
  - f) I judged them and felt nothing because I was not one of them
  - g) Then, in college, I became one

- h) I flunked - I was kicked out of college
- i) Suddenly, I saw I was no better than any other student
- j) I no longer had time to judge others because I was focused on improving my life
- 8) **SLIDE** This is Paul's point
- 9) **Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' <sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

### III **SLIDE** Are we doing the same things?

A) **Romans 1:28-29 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.

- 1) They have become filled
  - a) To fill up an empty vessel
  - b) Not an occasional slip
  - c) Overflowing
- 2) **SLIDE** Wickedness
  - a) Injustice
  - b) That which is wrong
  - c) That which is out of harmony with established use

- i) NOTE: this refers to out of harmony with God's word
  - ii) However, people have replaced God's established use with their established use
  - iii) Thus, situational morality and ethics
- d) The absence of justice
- 3) **SLIDE** Evil
  - a) This word has several different meanings
    - i) Fornication
      - Any sexual sin
      - **2 Corinthians 12:21 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup> I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.
    - b) Maliciousness - lawlessness
    - c) Covetousness - Greed
- 4) **SLIDE** Greed
  - a) Takes different forms
  - b) **Luke 12:15 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> Then [Jesus] said to them, "**Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**"
  - c) Love of money, hoarding, overspending, keeping up with the Kardashians, entitlement
- 5) Depravity
  - a) Wickedness of heart
  - b) Wickedness as a habit
  - c) The desire to do evil to others

#### B) Not us

- 1) For the most part, we do not fall into any of these categories
- 2) However, Paul is not listing categories of sin
- 3) Paul is listing sin
- 4) Paul is not condemning us; He is convicting us
- 5) Get ready **STOP?**

C) **SLIDE Romans 1:29B (NIV)** filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

1) Envy

- a) Jealousy
- b) Pain conceived at the sight of excellence
- c) Now comes the offensive part
- d) Is it possible that we use Facebook to promote our children over others?
- e) When we post our accomplishments, are we praising God or are we boasting?
- f) Ever been to a sporting event where parents attack other players?
- g) Have we ever been miffed because we or our spouses or our children were "overlooked?"
- h) Have we ever felt slighted when God chose to use someone else instead of us?
- i) Have you ever felt you were more deserving of an honor than the person who was actually honored?
- j) Ever feel jealous when the church down the road is growing faster than we are?
- k) When we choose people to give testimonies, have you ever wondered why you were not chosen?
- l) Ben & communion - never chose me - actually, Jesus did not choose me

2) **SLIDE Murder**

- a) Slaying or killing (primary meaning)
- b) Definitely not me
- c) However....
- d) **Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] <sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to

judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' [an Aramaic term of contempt] is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

i) **SLIDE** Angry WITH HIS BROTHER

ii) Fool

- Silly
- Stupid
- Used of persons meaning morally worthless
- Raca is calling someone stupid
- Fool speaks to the worthlessness of a person's heart

iii) Thus, when we get angry at a fellow believer and feel in our hearts that they are worthless, we are in trouble

iv) When we feel anger and harbor that anger to the point that we avoid that person, we are in trouble

v) When we worship with people that we do not even want to speak with, we are in trouble

## STOP

3) Strife

a) Contention

b) Discord

c) Ever spoken a word that added fuel to a fire?

d) Ever lit the match that caused a fire?

e) Ever read a post or heard a comment like this: I am so tired of certain people talking about me behind my back.

f) What is the result of such a statement? Strife

g) I told you we would offend everyone

## OR STOP HERE