

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Following Paul’s introductory prologue in verses 1-17 we have a transition into this long section in which Paul indicts the entire human race as being under the condemnation of sin.

Slide # 2

Romans 1:18 – 3:20 ***The Whole World Guilty Before God***

- 1:18-32 – Depraved Pagans
- 2:1-16 – Hypocritical Moralists
- 2:17-3:8 – Self-Righteous Religionists
- 3:9-20 – The Whole Human Race

In 1:17-18 we have a contrast presented between the righteousness of God which is revealed in the “faith” of believers from faith to faith and the wrath of God which is revealed in the lives of unbelievers. The fact of this wrath revealed is stated in verse 18. And the WHY of it is seen in that they suppress the obvious truth of God as revealed to them by way of conscience and creation.

A HUGE point being made is that people are without excuse. God has given sufficient light to make Himself known and people are accountable for it.

Slide # 3***The Downward Spiral of Depravity***

Irreverent – 1:18-21

Idiocy – 1:22

Idolatry – 1:23

Immorality – 1:24

Last time we left off at verse 21 which emphasizes that although people knew the reality of God, yet they refused to glorify Him as God (rejected His Lordship) and were not thankful. Consequently, they became futile (vain/empty) in their thinking and their hearts were darkened.

Paul now continues his thought in verse 22.

Romans 1:22–27 (NKJV)**22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

Talk about a non sequitur. They became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened and at the same time they prided themselves on their self-professed wisdom. That is the height of folly and so as the text says “they became fools”.

People who walk away from God’s wisdom are full of themselves. Pride is a blinding thing. Pride being focused on self doesn’t see reality as it really is. It thinks it knows it all but really knows nothing. What a pitiful condition. “Wise fools” have no real wisdom – they just think they do.

Pride is the besetting sin of mankind! It is an inherent trait of depravity. They claim to have answers to life and its problems, but in reality its all EMPTY and VAIN! They have no satisfying answers to the meaning and purpose of life. Remove God from the equation and you are left with futility and darkness. You are left with pure FOLLY no matter how loudly the person professes to be wise. It’s just empty moronic talk.

Slide # 4**Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)**

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, **But fools** despise wisdom and instruction.

Wise in this verse refers to the idea that the person is culturally sophisticated in their own mind – a learned person full of worldly wisdom. Such a person is really a fool. This is the biblical definition of a FOOL. The word fool is the Greek word *moraino* from which we get our English word “moron” which literally means “stupid person”. The idea is that of being morally stupid! Intellectually, they may be brilliant, but morally they are morons.

Even brilliant people who do not honor God miss the whole purpose of life and are therefore fools. – ***ESV Study Bible***

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.

Here is where suppressive, futile, dark thinking goes. Amazingly it doesn't generally do away with any and all concepts of God – rather it tweaks things – it changes things about the truth of God.

Humanity was designed to worship and IDOLATRY proves it. Yes, there are professing atheists but most of the world that rejects the One true God then turns to some form of IDOLATRY. And what a colossal move downward.

Dark thinking that rejects the light of God's truth changes the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man.

The incorruptible God emphasizes that He is unchanging. This is in keeping with His “eternal power” noted in verse 20. The true God is eternal and unchanging. This is His unique glory and His alone! He is the great I AM which simply means “to be”. God told Moses His eternal name is “I AM” (Ex. 3:14-16) and Jesus picking up on this told the Jews if they didn't believe that He was “I AM” they would die in their sins (Jn. 8:24; 58).

But now human depravity changes the idea of God from being eternal and incorruptible (unchanging) into an image of mortality that is ever breaking down. The stupidity of this (spiritually speaking) is staggering! This fits human pride – “let's make a god in our own image”. Ever since Genesis 3:5 where Satan said “you will be like God” mankind has an idolatrous fixation with self. Depravity likes the idea of being “god”. And mankind is constantly on a quest to find “the fountain of youth” by which he might live forever!

Man likes to play God but he has this little problem called “death”.

The death problem is unsolvable. It takes the immortal, incorruptible God to solve this problem. Only vain thinking would look elsewhere. There is coming a day (the day of the Lord judgment) in which God will show the world the FOLLY of its idolatry.

Slide # 5

Isaiah 2:20–22 (NKJV)

20 In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats,

21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.

22 Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he?

An unbeliever once said, “**God made man in His own image and man returned the favor**”. Yes, depravity seeks to turn God into the image of man. Talk about inverted perversion. This is it.

Eastern mysticism that sees God in everything is part of this delusion. Mormonism that says “**As man now is, God once was: As God now is, man may be**” is part of this delusion. And on and on. People love to play “God”. They like to think they are their own MASTER in control of their own destiny. We hear it in lingo like, “**You can become anything you want to be – you can do anything you want to do – just so long as you believe in yourself.**” The whole world is essentially man-centered in its ideology. Man is the ultimate measure of all things – except for when he is not.

And what I mean by that is depravity goes lower and lower and (morally speaking) gets dumber and dumber. Idolatry takes people so low as to even end up worshipping “**birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**” This is pure IDOLATRY on the lowest scale.

That is total descent. They knew God, but when they arrived at the bottom, they were worshipping sticks and stones, carved out in the shape of animals and “creeping things.” **Alva McClain**

Huge segments of society today are very concerned about dogs and cats but have little regard for human life.

There are quacko morons (morally speaking) who have much more concern about “mother earth” and the environment than they do about the welfare of people. And sadly, many professing Christians are NOT discerning enough to even see a problem with this as they jump on board with the craziest of movements!

Darwinian evolution teaches an upward progression in what is called the survival of the fittest. But in truth depravity evolves downward – going from knowing the truth of God to worshipping images made like themselves to that of birds and all manner of creatures and creeping things.

In Romans 1 we have the general trajectory of human depravity and where it has historically led and at the same time we see it is latent in the heart of depraved humanity generally all through time. Paul refers to this tendency towards idolatrous superstition in Colossians as “the basic principles of the world” (Col. 2:8, 20). I even see many supposedly Christian athletes superstitiously tapping an image of the teams mascot for some sort of “good luck”. Idolatrous superstition is everywhere.

There is no record of organized idolatry prior to the flood. After the flood Nimrod (meaning “rebel”) founded a city called “Bab-el” (meaning “the gate of God” (Gen. 10:10). This was a rallying place for those who would meet God in defiance. When God judged the city He renamed it Babel (meaning “confusion). Nimrod had a wife named Semiramis who founded the idolatrous “mystery religions” of Babylon. From this developed all the organized idolatry that spread across the world (cf. Josh. 24:2).

Fast-forward to the book of Revelation and in Rev. 17-18 we find the final form of unified idolatrous religion which is called “Mystery Babylon the Great”. It all ties back to Babylon and will come full circle in the last days under the great harlot of false religion and Antichrist.

The moral insanity of idolatry is stressed in the OT in both Isa. 44:9-20 and also Psalm 115:1-8 as well as other places (cf. Ps. 106:20).

Slide # 6

Isaiah 44:20 (NKJV)

20 He feeds on ashes; A deceived heart has turned him aside; And he cannot deliver his soul, Nor say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?”

Psalm 115:8 (NKJV)

8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

A footnote on idols: Idols within themselves are NOTHING as stated by Paul in 1 Cor. 8:4. However, behind idolatry is the reality of demons as seen in 1 Cor. 10:20.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Invariably immorality tends to follow idolatry. These are consistently linked together. Depravity that rejects God and turns to idolatry is consistently accompanied by gross immorality.

The word “**Therefore**” in verse 24 connects back to the wrath of God revealed in verse 18. The way God’s wrath is revealed is seen in that “God gave them up” in verse 24 which is also repeated in verses 26 and 28. This is the wrath of God’s abandonment where He just lets people go in their sin. That is a terrible place to be!

We have seen the FACT of God’s wrath, the WHY of God’s wrath, and now the HOW of God’s wrath.

Slide # 7

FACT of God’s wrath revealed – 1:18

WHY of God’s wrath revealed (suppress) – 1:18-23

HOW of God’s wrath revealed – (abandonment) 1:24-32

When it comes to immorality, what people want to call freedom in reality is bondage which is a form of judgment. People don’t want God running their life and if they persist in that mode there comes a point where God gives them over to their depravity and the outcome is NEVER good. The worst thing in the world is for God to just let people have their own way. Be careful what you wish for!

Slide # 8

Genesis 6:3 (NKJV)

3 And the LORD said, “**My Spirit shall not strive with man forever**, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

He gives them up only after an adequate revelation of His being (1:20). He does not cause anyone’s demise; the natural law of consequences does. – **David Jeremiah**

Uncleanness is a general term related to decaying matter. Metaphorically, God gave them up to uncleanness which is the idea of that which is morally putrid which is the rotten fruit of evil lusts in their hearts. The word “**lusts**” simply means “desires” and by itself can have either a good or bad connotation. However, clearly in this context it has an evil connotation. In verse 21 we saw “**their foolish hearts were darkened**”. Here in verse 24 we see “**the lusts of their hearts**”. They clearly have a HEART problem.

The great issues of life are all about the HEART. Idolatry and immorality are matters that come from the HEART.

Slide # 9

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

23 Keep your **heart** with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Matthew 15:18–19 (NKJV)

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the **heart**, and they defile a man.

19 For out of the **heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

The heart is the moral center of a person’s spiritual being. It involves the will and moral choices. Jeremiah 17:9 says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, but we also see in Romans 10:9-10 that it is with the HEART that one believes unto righteousness. The obedience of faith is a matter of the HEART (cf. Rom. 1:5).

What’s in the HEART comes out in the life – and in the case a heart given over to idolatry it consistently displays itself in immorality. The phrase, “dishonor their bodies among themselves” is a way of speaking of immorality. Our bodies were created by God to bring glory to Him and He has ordained sexual needs are to be met within the context of heterosexual marriage. To be sexually active outside of marriage is to dishonor the body God has given to us.

Slide # 10**1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NKJV)**

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who **commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.**

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Slide # 11**Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)**

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

We are to honor God with our bodies and to be involved in sexual uncleanness is to dishonor them. Sexual purity is the very thing that sets us apart from the world.

Sexual lusts are among the most powerful. God demands on being Lord over all including that greatest of passions including sexual passions. This is a true test of Lordship – will God be Lord over a person's sex life or not? This is a dividing line between the genuine people of God and the phonies.

When he [mankind] chooses to abandon God and make himself lord, he is abandoned by God to his own lusts. – ***Alan Johnson***

Slide # 12

If we know what's good for us, we really don't want it our own fleshy way!

Of course, even believers still have the flesh and can fall, but they will not habitually live immorally. DO NOT BE DECIEVED!

In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul says, "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... will inherit the kingdom..." and then he says, "And such WERE some of you." We used to live this way but not any more. We have been "washed, justified, and sanctified".

When I have funerals out at the graveside I almost always turn to the end of the book are read out of Revelation 21 and 22 – the last chapters in the Bible because this is the final destination for all people in one way or another. And as I read in context from Revelation 21 there is always pressure to stop at verse 7. In fact, one time I did that and afterward I was very convicted that I didn't read through verse 8.

Slide # 13

Revelation 21:7–8 (NKJV)

7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 **But** the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

For people who reject the worship of God in futile thinking He gives them over to their idolatrous sex drives. And this is what drives the world. Sexual perversion is everywhere. Porn is everywhere. Immoral thoughts and speech are everywhere. The world is given over to the flesh and thereby dishonor not only their bodies but the God who has given them this body.

This is a moral universe and behind it all is the holy God of morality. He is the "Creator" and as those created in His image we are to honor our bodies as He intends! Those who says, "**My body – my choice**" do not recognize the truth of God's Lordship AUTHORITY over their lives.

As Christians we have submitted to the truth of this reality – now the challenge is to live consistently with the truth we have come to know.

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.

Paul in this context alternates thoughts between idolatry and immorality.

Slide # 14

Idolatry – v. 23

Immorality – v. 24

Idolatry – v. 25

Immorality – vv. 26-27

This serves to demonstrate the close relationship between idolatry and immorality. Very often they are closely linked.

Depravity is a lot about “change” and “exchange”. In verse 23 they changed the glory of God into idolatry. Here in verse 25 we see the same concept as they “exchanged the truth of God for the lie”. The TRUTH of God is diametrically opposed to THE LIE. The truth of God refers to the very reality of God. In verse 20 it was spoken of as His “invisible attributes” clearly seen in creation which testify of His Godhood.

The definite article THE is here -namely “the lie”. There are various sorts of lies but the THE lie – the ultimate lie is that of IDOLATRY. God is irreplaceable! And to put something in His place is THE LIE! There is not a greater monstrous error than this. The true God stands in contrast with idols which are all false gods (cf. 1 Thess. 1:9).

To exchange the worship of God for the lie is the final disaster.

Leon Morris –

And history will climax in the whole unsaved world worshipping a man known as the antichrist. This is also called THE LIE in 2 Thess. 2:11.

Slide # 15

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe **the lie**,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Note it very carefully, God gives them over to strong delusion to believe THE LIE only after they have had knowledge of the truth but did not receive the love of the truth. This is God's pattern. I believe when Antichrist comes on the scene there will be a tremendous evangelistic outreach with the truth. The 2 special witnesses of Rev. 11 will be on the scene. The 144 thousand Jewish evangelists of Rev. 7 will be on the scene. And multitudes will be saved, but those who refuse to accept the truth will then believe THE LIE of Antichrist when half way through the Tribulation he goes into the rebuilt temple and declares himself to be God.

But the point is this happens only after the world has generally been made very aware of the truth as propagated throughout the world. When the 2 witnesses are killed the whole world rejoices. You see they were all aware of their truth ministry but rejected it.

Depravity in its downward spiral exchanges the truth of God for the lie. It's not that they were totally ignorant. No they are culpable because they had the truth but then threw it away in exchange for THE LIE of idolatry.

The great issue in life is WHO or WHAT will be your God! (Jn. 17:3) Who or what will a person worship? This is the issue! God is seeking for true worshipers (Jn. 4:23-24). But depravity suppresses the truth of God and exchanges it for idolatry. It turns to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator. Naturalists who love nature and reject the truth of God are examples of this perversion.

Now certainly, we should be good stewards of all the dominion that God has placed mankind over, but worship is to be reserved for God alone! God is to be ABOVE all! He ALONE is Lord and Master!

Idolatry is the most fundamental sin of all. The very first commandment is "You shall have no other gods before Me." (Ex. 20:3). God demands that He ALONE be recognized as God. Every other sin in one way or another relates to the sin of idolatry because idolatry is the placing of anything above God and every sin in one way or another involves this.

Pride and idolatry go together. Pride thinks of self higher than it ought to. It thinks in terms of INDEPENDENCE from God instead of DEPENDENCE upon Him. It thinks in terms of being self-directing, self-sufficient, and self-fulfilling which are all concepts of self-idolatry. It places self above God which is idolatry. Idolatry places the lusts of the flesh over God. Again, life is ultimately about worship. It is a Lordship issue and depravity refuses to give God His rightful place as God! Life is about Who are What will be a person's God! It's about who or what we will worship? That is the issue all the way through this section in Romans 1.

And then at the mention of "the Creator" it is as though Paul can't hold back from a spontaneous outburst of doxology saying of Him, "who is blessed forever. Amen." Nothing can change this reality! No matter how idolatrous mankind becomes the truth of the Creator is forever fixed and He will be praised FOREVER! Amen! And God always has a remnant of true believers who will praise Him throughout all eternity.

The heathen may refuse to give God His due, but His people do so now and will do so FOREVER throughout all eternity! "Amen" is a resounding affirmation expected from God's people who affirm the truth and certainly affirmed by Paul! AMEN literally means "so let it be".

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

In depravity there is a perversion and inversion of God's truth that defies even the very laws of nature as ordained by God. Because people persisted in their exchanging the truth of God for a lie He gave them over to vile perverted passions.

The issue here is homosexuality and in verse 26 specifically the sin of Lesbianism – women being involved sexually with other women. This is contrary to nature itself. It perverts and inverts God's created order.

Slide # 16

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore a **man** shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his **wife**, and they shall become **one flesh**.

God ordained marriage to be a sexual union and this was to be between a man and his wife – between male and female as created and ordained by God. Nothing is more basic than this. It is fundamental to the very nature of things as is even obvious in the physical make up of a man and a woman; and which is evident in the fact that procreation is a matter of a man and a woman. From the very beginning of Genesis 1 God said, “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28). Only the sexual relations of a man and a woman could do this. It is the very NATURE of things as created and ordained by God.

Note God gave them up to vile passions. It is not just the act of homosexuality, but the very heart passions for this perversion that are in view.

When it says, “even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature” that seems to be making a statement that when people come to this point society has pretty much spiraled down to the bottom.

Paul mentions women first to show the extent of debauchery under the wrath of abandonment, because in most cultures women are the last to be affected by moral collapse. – ***John MacArthur***

Women often are less aggressive in sexual perversion than men. But when they also throw off all restraints and have no regard for what is normal and natural in keeping with nature that is strong evidence of being given over to the wrath of God. And that my friends is where we are today!!

Homosexuality has been around for a long time being traced in the Bible back to Sodom and Gomorrah in the book of Genesis. The OT makes special mention of the greatness of this sin. All sin is sin and people go to hell for any and all sin – if they are not forgiven. But note what Genesis say about Sodom and Gomorrah.

Slide # 17

Genesis 13:13 (NKJV)

13 But the men of Sodom were **exceedingly wicked and sinful** against the LORD.

Genesis 18:20 (NKJV)

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

All sin is deadly serious but this is characterized as “exceedingly wicked and sinful”, “great”, and “very grave”. This is so rebellious against God so as to defy even the order of nature as ordained by God.

Under the law of God – the death penalty was required for those in the covenant community involved in this sin.

Slide # 18

Leviticus 20:13 (NKJV)

13 If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They **shall surely be put to death.** Their blood shall be upon them.

And not only did God hold His covenant people Israel accountable for sexual sin, He also held the wicked Canaanites accountable for their sexual perversions including various forms of unnatural sexual perversion. After naming all manner of such sexual perversions in Lev. 18; God said....

Slide # 19

Leviticus 18:27–28 (NKJV)

27 (for all these **abominations** the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled),

28 **lest the land vomit you out also** when you defile it, as **it vomited out the nations that were before you.**

It is like immoral filthy made the land SICK and it vomited out those guilty of sexual abominations. But someone says, “That is the God of the OT”. Well, I want you to know that the God of the OT is the same God of the NT.

In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul under inspiration says all manner of sexually immoral people – including homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom. Both Peter and Jude go so far as to say that God intends for His judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah when He rained fire and brimstone down on them to be an enduring example – a warning to all who would thereafter live ungodly.

Slide # 20

2 Peter 2:6 (NKJV)

6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

Jude 7 (NKJV)

7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

That doesn't sound to me like God has changed His standards one bit! This is an enduring reality. God's created order and what He has ordained about sexuality has not changed at all!

The irony is that this sort of [perversion] finds no counterpart in the animal kingdom. [Sexual] perversion is the unique contrivance of the human species. – *Expositors*

Only those created in the image of God know God on the level that we do as humans and only humans in their depravity defy God's very order of nature. Idolatry is sensibly "unnatural" and out of whack with reality; and it follows that depravity also turns the created order of God upside down when it comes to sexuality. It's twisted and perverted.

Homosexuality is pictured by Paul not as the ultimate sin but as the ultimate distortion of God's creative genius. – *Believer's Study Bible*

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.

In view here is homosexuality involving men. They too abandon what is in keeping with nature as ordained by God – that is sexual relations with women. This burning in lust for one another is described as shameful. Ironically, the homosexuals of our day call their movement A PRIDE movement! There is no "shame". In their extreme arrogance they even have the audacity to take the rainbow symbol (God's symbol of His promise) and apply it to their movement.

They have come a long way from "just coming out of the closet" (so to speak). Now they demand not only acceptance but to be celebrated. And more and more they are getting the laws of the land on their side. To not be accepting of it is to be a "hater", a "homophobe", and a "bigot".

Now of course we want to be gracious and compassionate as we want to be towards all sinners, but we must not compromise what God says regarding the issue of sin. And right there is the rub. To call out Lesbianism and homosexuality as sin is something the world absolutely will not tolerate.

The issue of homosexuality has been around since at least Genesis 13. In the OT it refers to such persons as “perverted” persons. But in our day we are seeing a movement of homosexuality never ever seen before in the history of the world as so stated by many historians.

We are truly off the grid. There has never been a time in history in which homosexuality has been seen as an “orientation” or when homosexual marriage was considered acceptable and normal. The homosexual community has attempted to revise history (with much success) and make traditionalists appear to be the ones out of step with the past and “on the wrong side of history.” But even a brief glance into human history reveals that the homosexual movement of today is simply out of stride with how homosexuality has been viewed as far back as it can be traced. To be sure, homosexual attraction and behavior has existed throughout antiquity but not in the forms we are seeing today. – **Dr. Gary Gilley**

Certainly, never before in the Church Age, in any sector of the Church has this ever been condoned, but now it is. If you are looking for a last days sign of apostasy – this is it! Never before in the history of the Church Age have we ever seen any thing like this. All the Christian publications are now addressing it and asking “What should our stance be?”

For example, a well known Christian magazine (that I largely read to keep abreast of the latest compromises) had a 7 page article on the issue of “Gender Pronouns”. They point out that in less than a decade, “gender-neutral and alternative pronoun usage” has become a major issue in almost every sector of our society. They bring out that some government agencies are now saying to not use a person’s preferred pronoun could do them great harm to where they may even commit suicide. The agency says, “using a person’s correct pronouns saves lives.”

A pastor responded by saying, “To use preferred pronouns without further honest conversation is not only to acquiesce to a belief system that is biblically unfaithful but also to promote it.” How true!

And yet this is where we find ourselves. Even many Christian young people wanting to “virtue signal” are caught up in this not realizing they are in effect condoning that which is totally anti-God and anti-bible.

Many don't realize that popular movements are often fraught with heresy. For example BLM was founded by radical feminists who identify as gay and one of their stated goals is to dismantle what they term the "Western nuclear family" – which is what we would call a biblically ordained family.

The insanity has gotten so bad the battle is now over the genital mutilation and chemical sterilization of children – some times without the parents knowledge. The battle is over the use of bathrooms and whether a biological male who identifies as a woman can use the women's bathroom or shower room. One expert says there are over 6500 biological differences between men and women! It really is spiritually moronic beyond belief to not recognize this reality! Can anybody say, "Living in the last days?"

The current homosexual/transgender movement has gone to seed with postmodern thought. Postmodern thinking says reality is what you decide it to be. They claim that nothing is NATURAL and that sexuality is merely a social construct – according to what you decide you want it to be. Absolute morals are out the window. Personal choice and feelings now dictate reality. Facts are what you decide they are – there is no such thing as objective truth. It is very hard to reason with the unreasonable! So the question is raised, "If gender has nothing to do with objective biology, then what is gender really based on?" If you throw the Bible out the answer is no one knows. It's all subjective mush or what the bible calls futile thinking in keeping with darkened hearts.

And so things are changing quickly. It used to be that those claiming to be homosexual would argue they were born that way. But that is so "yesterday". It is now not a matter of how a person is BORN but rather a matter of what they CHOOSE to be at any given time. A person may be male in the morning and female in the afternoon. We have a common term for this and it's called CRAZY! The reality is that secular morality doesn't fit with reality as seen in Creation and that which is ordained by God as seen in the Bible. Again, they want to play God, and defy the One True God and what He has ordained according to nature.

Slide # 21

Animals have become gods, man has become woman, wrong has become right. Nature without the true God has become unnatural. –
The New Bible Commentary Revised

Isaiah 5:20 (NKJV)

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

And then the text says, “**receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.**” Here is the law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7-8). One cannot escape the self-destructive nature of this sin. Exactly what this entails is not stated, but the language “**in themselves**” is telling. Some jump down to verse 32 where it says they are “deserving of death”. It is noted that categorically homosexuals tend to live about 20 years less (on average) than the normal life span. Transgenders who have surgery are 20 times more likely to die by suicide.

Many die by suicide. Venereal disease is rampant. Depression and internal misery are common. Loneliness, purposelessness, unsatisfied lust, despair, loss of meaningful identity, and no peace are part of the internal consequences of “**in themselves**”. Yes, one can defy God and try to defy Him to the point of rejecting the normal laws of nature but that comes with a high price – certainly in eternity -but even in the here and now they receive “in themselves” the self-destructive penalty of their error.

But for homosexuals as for all sinners there is good news - that is until you quit breathing there is HOPE for you as found in Jesus Christ. In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul says to those who were now “saints” – “**And such were some of you.**” Some of us were there too and but for the GRACE of God still would be! The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin all who come to Him.”

This “wrath revealed” in a sense is also the mercy of God. Romans 11:32 says, “**God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.**” It is like the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. The father let the son go and he began the downward spiral of sin to where he found himself eating pig feed and then the Bible says, “he came to himself”. That was a turning point of repentance. And some in the pit of depravity by the grace of God come to that point. This too is the MERCY of God!

Christ died for everyone. Paul claimed he was the chief of all sinners – so you have to line up behind him. And his testimony is that he is the “**pattern of those who are going to believe on Him [Jesus] for everlasting life.**” (1 Tim. 1:15-16).

This dark initial section of Romans might seem like a strange introduction to gospel of God’s GRACE, but this awful indictment of Romans 1 cannot be evaded. Until a person understands their sinful state, they cannot properly appreciate the GRACE of God. “**Shall pardon be spoken of before the sinner is proved a sinner?**” (William Newell) A man was in a Bible study in which they were going through Romans 1. After the study, he said, “**I don’t ever remember reading the Bible, but tonight I have seen myself in Romans 1; now what do I do about it?**”

That is the great issue!

Have you seen your sin problem?

Have you seen the answer as found in Jesus?

Come to Jesus! Where sin has abounded – GRACE abounds more!