

Romans 1.18-32 “The World’s Newest – and Oldest – Religion”
 PAUL Glories in RIGHTEOUSNESS of God > Who IS, What DOES, & GIVES

Romans is Paul’s fullest, grandest, most comprehensive statement of the gospel. Its compressed declarations of vast truths are like coiled springs – once loosened, they leap through the mind and heart to fill one’s horizon and shape one’s life.

Reformation Study Bible Notes

Our TEXT in Romans 1 Starts > SURPRISING SHIFT IN PAUL’S TEACHING
 v. 17 BEST NEWS EVER “in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed”
 v. 18 WORST NEWS EVER “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven”

Explains We DON’T DESERVE It! - WHY Must BE GIVEN Righteousness
 BEGINS with Low-Hanging Fruit – PAGAN Gentiles, IMMORAL, God-less
 Gentiles Easy Target for JEWS just COMING Back into Rome to Blame
 We’ll see in Next Weeks – We are All Sin-Sick! - It’s a PANDEMIC!!

Romans > Paul’s clearest Presentation of God’s GOSPEL MEDICINE
 PAUL follows Teaching Method of Jesus > NOT SICK, NEVER Call DOCTOR
 Text: Most DREADFUL DESCRIPT. of HUMAN RACE in all LITERATURE
 SURELY Can FIND MORE Positive PREACHER on your Computer!

Paul would have FAILED Course in MODERN EVANGELISM TECHNIQUES
 No Warm Fuzzy Feelings / No Focus on Felt Needs > just TRUTH in LOVE!

1.17 “in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed”

3.21 “now a righteousness from God, apart from Law, has been made known”

1.18–3.20 Who Needs this Righteousness? – Gentile, Moralist, Jews, All

“Nothing keeps people away from Christ more than their inability to see their need of him or their unwillingness to admit it.”

John Stott

1. God's Truth Concealed (2. God's Wrath Revealed)

a. Man(kind) Knows the True God

WHO are these People? >> MAJORITY of those Walking Streets 1st C ROME

Vast Majority Roman Emp “Gentiles” OUTSIDE God's COVENANT Promises

// MAJORITY Walking Street of 21st C Rome, Rio, London, L.A., Barcelona, BJ

World's Newest Major Religion: “NONES” No Religion - Fastest Growing USA

“NONES” – No Religious Affiliation – a.k.a. Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists

Following the HYMN of FORMER BEATLE

“Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try, No hell below us. Above us only sky. Imagine all the people living for today...”

John Lennon

EVEN THESE PEOPLE KNOW GOD...v. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them

KNOW GOD BY NATURE – God's Finger Prints are ON US / Made in IMAGE

v. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made.

OXYMORON Invisible God / **SEEN** by Works/ by Eyes of Hearts / Conscience

FOUNDATION of Paul's Teaching Here > EARLY Chapters of GENESIS

General / NATURAL REVELATION – Truth of God in Creation & Conscience

GOD is CREATOR, LORD, and JUDGE

Our SINFUL Parents DRIVEN from GARDEN by Flaming CHERUBIM

ALL us Kids: RESTLESS Wanderers thru EARTH, Away Presence of God

v. 21 they knew God

v. 32 they know God's righteous decree

Paul's Strong Point: IMPOSSIBILITY of ATHEISM, All People KNOW GOD
 "There is enough evidence of God in a flower to lead a child as well as a scientist to worship him. There is sufficient evidence in a tree, a pebble, a grain of sand, a fingerprint, to make us glorify God and thank Him." James Boice

IF All People Know God – THEN **What do they do with this knowledge?**

b. Refuses to Glorify God v. 21 "they did not honor him as God"

If God is NOT Sovereign / Not RULER OVER ALL THINGS? > He is Not God
 Man HATES GOD for His SOVEREIGNTY – His Most Basic Attribute
 NOT A PASSIVE IGNORANCE / CLEARLY A WILLFUL REBELLION

HATRED Seen in GARDEN OF EDEN: Adam > ALMOST Total Freedom
 Thousands of Trees to Enjoy / Hundreds of Fruits to Eat / Whole Earth was His
 FRUIT just 1 TREE was OFF LIMITS / Token of God's Sovereign Rule

ADAM COULD NOT STAND LIMITING BOUNDARY / Check on Freedom
 Nothing to Gain / Everything to Lose / But man WANTS TO BE SOVEREIGN
 NOTHING WAS MORE FOOLISH OR IRRATIONAL THAN ADAM'S SIN

Man HATES GOD for His HOLINESS – Exposes us, WE ARE NOT HOLY
 HOLINESS IS ATTRIBUTE MOST OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE GOD

WE ARE DRAWN TO HIS HOLINESS LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME

PARADOX > At Same Time – God's Holiness REPELLS US FROM HIM

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" ...
 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost" Isaiah 6.3,5

Man HATES GOD for His OMNISCIENCE, God KNOWS Everything, Us too!
 HATE LIVING IN GOD'S FISHBOWL / EXPOSURE IS INTOLERABLE
 COVER OUR NAKEDNESS BEFORE GOD / Cover Ourselves with Fig Leaves

Man HATES GOD for His IMMUTABILITY – God DOES NOT CHANGE
ATTRIBUTE MAKES ALL THE OTHERS SEEM MOST TERRIBLE TO US

If He were Retiring Chairman of the Board > WE COULD WAIT
If WE were ETERNAL / WE COULD WAIT HIM OUT / THEN TAKE OVER
BUT HE WILL BE SOVEREIGN FOREVER AND EVER / NEVER RETIRES

c. Neglects to be Thankful v. 21 “they did not...give thanks to him”

Lack of THANKFULNESS – UNACCEPTABLE to MOST PEOPLE!

Grandma /Aunty sends yearly B-Day Gift > Little Bobby or Bobby Jean

BUSY LITTLE BOBBY NEVER REMEMBERS TO SAY THANKS

Tolerated ONCE or TWICE – After that no more for Ungrateful Little Creep

“Man does not thank God for his mercy, for his goodness, for his dealings with us in providence. We take the sunshine for granted; we are annoyed if we do not get it. We take the rain for granted. How often do we thank God...the giver of “every good and perfect gift.”
Martyn Lloyd-Jones

d. Suppress Truth of God

v. 18 “unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth”

NEB “we STIFLE the truth” / Jerusalem Bible “keep the truth imprisoned”

ATHEISM – NOT Man’s IGNORANCE of God but Man’s HATRED of God
NOT just a Unintentional MISTAKE/ OVERSIGHT / Careless NEGLET

DELIBERATE DECISION/ DETERMINED ACT/ PRE-MEDITATED EVIL

People DO NOT KNOW GOD BECAUSE they do NOT WANT to KNOW HIM

“Knowledge of God is unacceptable to man and as a result man does his best to blot it out or at least camouflage it in such a way that its threatening character can be concealed or dulled...(yet) the knowledge of God is not obliterated or destroyed. It remains in-tact though deeply submerged in the unconscious.”

R.C. Sproul

e. Exchanges the Truth for a Lie v. 25 “exchanged the truth of God for a lie”
 IF WE REJECT GOD – who is All Reality > We’re Left w/ UNREALITY

When SUPPRESS Truth of GOD Choose FALSEHOOD > FALSE PROMISES
 “New Freedom” / Liberation / Set free from Traditional Values / No Boundaries

When people stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing, they believe in anything.
 G.K. Chesterton

v. 21 “they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened

v. 22 “Claiming to be wise, they became fools”

“FOOL” NOT INTELLECTUAL BUT MORAL / “Fool says there is no God”

Truthiness is “What I say is right, and nothing anyone else says could possibly be true.” It’s not only that I *feel* it to be true, but that I *feel* it to be true” Stephen Colbert

f. Worships Created Things rather than Creator

v. 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

“Adam has not only failed to exercise his rightful dominion over creation, but, by placing himself in subservience to a creature (a serpent), has opened up the way to idolatry.”
 Morna D. Hooker

THE ULTIMATE LIE / Falsehood of Idolatry / Worship creature not Creator

ALLOW GOD-SHAPED VACUUM in our LIVES to be FILLED W/ Substitutes

v. 28 “they did not see fit to acknowledge God”

“God, we do not want you. We want you to get out of our lives, to leave us alone.

Go SIT in that CHAIR in the CORNER! We want to do our own thing!

g. Without Excuse v. 20 so that people are without excuse

Revelation of GOD is SUFFICIENT – Man does Not Know ALL about God,
But he Knows ENOUGH to Give Him Glory, Worship, and Thanks > REFUSES

MOST OFTEN HEARD PHRASES “It wasn’t my fault” “I could not help it”

“Nobody told me” “My intentions were good” “Do not be so critical”

LEAST HEARD - “I was wrong” - “I am sorry”

GENTILES of ROME – No Excuse > Even tho ONLY had WITNESS of Nature
No Bible! No Churches! No Preachers! / SO we are 1000 X’s MORE GUILTY

Maybe God’s MEMORY FAIL with AGE? / Maybe He’ll FORGET?

MAYBE God’ll Get TIRED HOLDING SUCH HIGH STANDARDS?

WAITING for Him to LOOSEN UP / So we Can DO Our SINNING in PEACE

BUT HE WILL BE HOLY, JUST, & Sovereign thru ALL ETERNITY

God is Unchangably OMNISCIENT / He Never Changes / Never Forgets

2. God’s Wrath Revealed

v. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

WRATH of GOD –difficult concept– How can Righteous God be Wrathful God?

PROBLEM – If Honest – MOST CANNOT IMAGINE SINLESS ANGER

MOST of MY OUTBURSTS of ANGER – NOT Display of Righteousness!

Remember – WE are MADE in GOD’S IMAGE / Don’t MAKE HIM into OURS

We may not be able to Separate - Sin & Anger - BUT GOD CAN / AND DOES

GOD is Completely RIGHTEOUS / And RIGHTEOUS in ALL HIS ACTIONS

“The wrath of God...is almost totally different from human anger. It does not mean that God loses his temper, flies into a rage, or is ever malicious, spiteful or vindictive. The alternative to wrath is not love but neutrality in the moral conflict. And God is not neutral. On the contrary, his wrath is his holy hostility to evil, his refusal to condone it or come to terms with it, his just judgment upon it.”

John Stott

The wrath of God is God’s righteousness apart from Christ. Karl Barth

Hell is NOT God’s ABSENCE but His FULL Presence but w/OUT Christ

He is THERE - But w/ NO More POSSIBILITY of GRACE & MERCY 4ever

Wrath of God is

OTHER Texts >> FUTURE WRATH of GOD / Romans 1 PRESENT EVENT

Wrath of God “IS BEING Revealed Against” / DIRECTED AGAINST – Evil

WAY the Wrath of God is REVEALED here > 4 TERRIBLE Words - 3 X’s

vs. 24,25 Therefore *God gave them up*...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...

v. 26 For this reason *God gave them up* to dishonorable passions...

v. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, *God gave them up*...

Emancipation from the blessed will of God always involves bondage to some worse taskmaster. J. Gresham Machen

EACH Time TERRIBLE 4 words SPOKEN: Sin/Judgment gets More INTENSE

FATHER OF PRODIGAL SON RELEASES HIM TO WANDER AND FALL

MAN’S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED > RUN from God - FAR and FAST!

“We think of God as a miser of happiness, keeping back from us all that would make us happy. We think that by running away from him we will be happy, wild, and free. But it doesn’t work that way. Instead of happiness we find misery. Instead of freedom we find debilitating bondage of sin.” James Boice

“When the gods wish to punish us, they answer our prayers” Oscar Wilde

Many Times People would Be Better Off to be STRUCK by LIGHTNING

Instead of HANDED Over to Sinful Consequences of OWN Stupid Choices

a. Given over to Sexual Impurity

vs. 24,25 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God

1st PARENTS decided THEY had Better Interpretation of LIFE

Enabled by MAGICAL Fruit > They’d DETERMINE what is GOOD & EVIL

NEWEST Religion is ALSO OLDEST Religion: I am my OWN Lord & God

1st SIGN of WICKEDNESS/WRATH Paul cites here IMMORALITY in Society

Shameless Sexuality - Exceedingly POPULAR 1st C ROME –

Pornography Not Born w/ Internet or Me/Homies Steal Playboy Mags from Dads

NOTHING New under SUN – SOCIETY Always LIES about SEX

OBJECTIFYING Women, Abuse, Meaningless Hook-Ups – Unchecked Fantasy

As OLD as SONG of LAMECH who took TWO Wives – ADAH and ZILLAH

‘GOD GAVE THEM UP’ – OVER to Consequences of Heart-felt Choices

RELEASED to Principles of Moral Gravity, Leaving God means Falling Down

Bible Links Belief & Behavior - DENY God’s LAW – DISTORT God’s LOVE

there will be *false teachers* among you, who will secretly bring in destructive *heresies*...many will follow their *sensuality*, and because of them the way of *truth will be blasphemed*...They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime... They have eyes full of adultery

2 Peter 2.1-14

HISTORY Shows: A Society REMOVES Scripture, RE-WRITES SEXUALITY

Attempt to LIVE in FREEDOM – apart from Control/Commands of GOD

Sinner: “I FEEL Free – FLAUNT God’s Laws – FREE SPIRIT to SIN!”

Where is YOUR God – I am HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL, PROPEROUS in SIN!”

PAUL’s Answer – You are LIVING Proof that God HANDED you OVER!

b. Given over to Shameful Lusts - Downhill Slide from Impurity to Perversion

v. 26-28 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

KEY IDEA – UNNATURALNESS of SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS

HeteroSexual IMMORALITY – USING Body Parts way God DESIGNED Them

HOMOSEXUAL Partnership – Might be LEGAL and LOYAL but...

AGAINST NATURE, SCRIPTURE & GOD’S Design for MAN & WOMAN

DIFFERENT Cultures – Teach & Honor Different Values, Feelings

Tim Keller: VIKING Culture – Highly Valued to Break Things, Kill People

VIKING BOYS > Can’t Wait to Grow Up – Break Things, Kill People

Viking Moves to 21st C Western City – Sick, Therapy, Jail?

Viking Culture – No Feelings of having SEX with Fellow Vikings

Text NOT to Measure SIN > Just NARRATE how FALLEN we ALL ARE

ALL ARE BORN INTO SIN AND CHRIST HAS COME TO SET US FREE

v. 27 “received in themselves the due penalty for their error”

REFERENCE TO AIDS, STD’S? NO! Paul never heard of these Sad Diseases

ETERNALLY

BUT CLEARLY SAYING – Sin has Severe Consequences – DANGEROUS

Today MANY call these Scriptures / Sermon HATE Speech > Be Arrested!
 Words of Man who GAVE His Life for Whole World to HEAR Good News
 ALL of Us Inexcusably GUILTY but GOD gives Immeasurably GRACE

Not ENDORSING Gay-Bashing or Excluding ANYONE from our Church
 If they LET OLD SINNER like ME In – Standards are Quite LOW!

But way we TRULY Love is NOT by Celebrating what God CONDEMNS
 TRUE Love tells ALL People they're SO BAD in they're Headed for HELL
 Yet - God in Christ has Taken Penalty of Hell > All Repent & Believe

Paul NOT Finished ONE More Terrible Manifestation of Separation from God

c. Given over to a Depraved Mind - APEX OF EVIL IN SOCIETY

vs. 28,32 “he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done”...Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

DEPRAVED MIND >leads to Dirty Laundry List > 21 Random Acts of Evil

vs. 29-31 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

HATING God leads to HATING People > Don't Love God / Won't Love People

TOTAL DEPRAVITY – Every Part of US is Touched and Twisted by Sin

NOT EVERYONE is GUILTY of EVERY SIN / Corporate Portrait of Man

Nobody is AS Bad as COULD Be, but Nobody is as GOOD as SHOULD Be

ORDER 1. Immorality 2. Perverse Homosexuality 3. Depraved Mind WHY?

DETERMINATION TO BELIEVE FALSEHOOD, LIVE BY IT, PASS IT ON

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5.20

Weeks ago 2 Old Men DEBATE btwn 2 Old White Guys who Wanna Replace
 OLD White Guy who holds Office of PREZ of USA

One POINT Argued > WHO gets Credit as 1st to ADVOCATE Gay Marriage?

We ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPROVE what GOD JUSTLY DISAPPROVES

Standards Disappear, Society Disintegrates / Forsake GOD we Fail PEOPLE

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS – academic support to our Moral Perversity

Studies Finding Genes Showing that we are Born Gay, or Drunk, or Addicted

Gang Rape is Normal behavior for Ducks – why not man?

Infanticide is Normal behavior for Baboons – and selfish sophisticated man

WE ARE ALSO ANIMALS / WE CANNOT BE ACCOUNTABLE BEINGS

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11.3

2 TERRIBLE Things EVIL of People > Complete Indifference to Commands

DO them Far Too OFTEN and RARELY Feel any GUILT about Doing Them

“It is after you have realized that there is a Moral Law and a Power behind that law, and that you have broken the law and put yourself wrong with that Power—it is after this and not a moment sooner, that Christianity begins to talk.”

C.S. Lewis

All week STRUGGLED – How to Land this Plane? – End this SERMON?

Realize Words of Text so Counter-Cultural – For Some feel like SLAP in FACE

Bear with ME for 3 Points of FINAL Application

1) World Teaches Sex is Highest Goal > TRUE in 1st C & still True 21st C

Paul well Aware this as he LIVED & WORKED & Wrote in Roman Empire

Many CRITICS say Paul/Bible were PRUDISH or Sexually FRUSTRATED
 Critics IGNORANT of History – Bible 1st to Argue for Dignity/Equality Women
 HONOR of Marriage – Vows – Sex as GIFT of God – Husband/Wife in Marriage

“There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:
 the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on
 the high seas, *and the way of a man with a young woman.*” Proverbs 30.18,19

Heterosexual

1 Entire Book of Bible describes Beauty and Wonder of Sexual Love Marriage

Paul understood WORLD Ignorant/Indifferent to God’s WORDS & WILL

Sadly Many People in Church – Perhaps even You Listening – are Indifferent
 God becomes the “errand boy of your wandering desires” Bob Dylan

NO Sex have NO LIFE > Pity the SINGLE Person – Find them a SPOUSE!

MANY SINGLES think PAY-BACK for a Nice DATE is SEX

ROMANCE must END with SEX – NO SEX NO ROMANCE

The outright evils of sexual immorality are not hard to identify. Our culture
 makes the water very muddy, and preaches the doctrine that dirty water is good
 to drink. But the line between love and lust is clear. David Powlison

b. Sex is an Empty Goal – Like Drinking Salt Water

Not Everyone is CALLED to Marry – Even in Marriage Sex Not All There Is!

Gift of Sex UNTETHERED from Giver > Lost Meaning and True Satisfaction

SATISFACTION Can’t be FOUND – Mick Jagger looking for 50 years

MORE Partners – NEW Methods > Most Popular Porn > Beat & Abuse Women

FLUIDITY – Non BINARY > Not BOUND in Categories of MALE / FEMALE

Matters of Sexuality/Standard > Jesus left us IN World, but Not OF World

“The children of God [are] freed through regeneration from bondage to sin. Yet... there still remains in them a continuing occasion for struggle whereby they may...learn their own weakness...there remains in a regenerate man a smoldering cinder of evil, from which desires continually leap forth to allure and spur him to commit sin.”
John Calvin

c. Sex is Gift but God is the Giver – He Himself is Highest Gift

We are MADE to Worship – We cannot STOP Worshipping

If Jesus is NOT the Center of your WORSHIP – SOMETHING IS

Paul wrote Romans so Church in Rome – Find Fullness of JOY in JESUS

Background of Paul’s NATURAL Theology – Romans 1 – Adam in GARDEN
they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day
Genesis 3.8

GOD in their Midst: EMMANUEL – LOVE – Fellowship – Friendship with God

GRAND DRAMA of Bible from GARDEN to GARDEN in Midst of CITY

God’s Cherubim drove Sinners out of Eden

God’s Christ delivers Sinners into a New Jerusalem – Home of Righteousness

Before we get there, we FIND our JOY and LIFE’S PURPOSE with HIM

NOT Sex, Church, Zoom Calls, even Fellowship > HE is our Greatest GIFT

I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my

heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73.23-26

ONLY REMEDY FOR EVIL IN GOD'S UNIVERSE IS JESUS CHRIST

ANOTHER DISPLAY OF THE WRATH OF GOD – CROSS OF CHRIST

SINLESS SON OF GOD – SAVIOR AND SUBSTITUTE – RIGHTEOUS ONE

God who GAVE US UP – is HIMSELF LIFTED UP on a Cross to SAVE US

Jesus: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10.11

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
John 17.3

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead...I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way Philippians 3.7-15

WORDS written by man PRISON Cell – MISERABLE Place – 4 X's REJOICE

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

C. S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."
St. Augustine

Romans 1. ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. ESV

Sexual sin doesn't just deserve God's wrath; it is God's wrath against our culture. It is a sign that God is giving us over to worse and worse sin. Sexual sins lead to more damage, heartache, sorrow, and sickness in our society than any other kind of sin.

a child who was raped by her uncle. Think about a wife and her little children who got AIDS from her unfaithful husband. Think about the millions and millions of babies that are aborted every year all over the world. Think about the

millions and millions of mothers and fathers who know deep in their hearts that they killed their own

unborn children. Think about the children who have no father because their father left them for a new wife. Think about the strong young men who are wiped out in the prime of their life because they wanted to have a little fun with a prostitute. Think about the diseases that are passed from person to person because people refuse to obey God's plan for sex and marriage. Our society is truly "receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error."

Crowley, JD. Commentary on Romans for Cambodia and Asia (ASEAN Bible Commentary Series Book 1) . Fount of Wisdom Publishing House, Phnom Penh. Kindle Edition.

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