

Given Over to Sin

Romans 1:23-32²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,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.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² Though 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.

- ❖ **You may think today's text is going to lead us into a non stop sermon on Homosexuality**
 - You may think that this text points a finger right at the Homosexual Community...
 - **But, in all honesty...** this text points toward mankind... all of mankind
 - Namely mankind without the grace of Jesus Christ to reverse the curse of sin and death
- ❖ **Honesty: It would be hypocritical for me to stand up here...**
 - **And point the finger at one group of sinful people...**
 - Especially without evaluating my own life...
 - **I do not stand up here before you today with any right or good in myself...**
 - We are all so guilty and rebellious and dark and wretched within
 - This goes especially for myself...
 - **Later on in the Book of Romans, Paul gets to the heart of his evaluation of himself...**
 - **Romans 7:24-25** ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 - **Consider these 2 verses for a minute...**
 - On one hand Paul clearly sees who He is... A man with no room to boast...
 - A wretched man trapped in a body of death...
 - But... on the other hand... He has hope... He has an answer
 - **"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord."**
 - **Wrapped up in Paul's statement in Romans 7:24** we see a recognition of sin in Paul
 - But, we also see a Hope for deliverance...
 - **Today... We are going to look at homosexuality for a portion of this morning...**
 - But we are also going to look at the source and depth of man's many sins...
 - And we all need to know 2 things...
 - 1) Such were some of you...
 - 2) Such are some of you...
 - **What do I mean by this?**
 - In 1 Corinthians 6 Paul lists a bunch of sins... a bunch... of terrible sins...
 - ◆ After his list... He says this:
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 6:11** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
 - **Notice:** A Very similar pattern from Paul... Just like he said of himself...

- ◆ He says to these people in Corinth... You used to be that way
 - Full of sin...
- ◆ But now you have been washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - Paul is reminding them what God has done in them...
 - He was certainly not saying they were living perfect...
 - But he is reminding them of what Jesus had done for them...

- **We are all sinners...**

- ◆ But... the only kind of sinner who can conquer his sin... is a justified sinner...
- ◆ Repeat!

- **Again... two things:**

- 1) Such were some of you
- 2) Such are some of you
 - You are on one side of this or the other today...
- **Therefore: Pray for a few things...**
 - If you are lost a rebellious so much so that you have exchanged truth for a lie
 - ◆ So that you believe the lie and not the truth...
 - ◆ Pray for God's Spirit to work in your heart the truth of His Word
 - ◆ Ask God to reveal truth to you...
 - **If you fit in the such were some of you, but you have been redeemed...**
 - ◆ **Pray for Humility as a saved person...**
 - Pray against the sin of self righteousness because you know some Bible now
 - And pray for strength to fight and conquer the sins that STILL rise inside of you
 - **Pray against:** Sexual wrong doings, Anger and Hatreds in your heart, and unforgiving spirit, pride and boasting, Gossiping and slandering the name of others...
 - Pray for God's perfect work of Sanctification in your life...

- ❖ **Ok... Sooooo what are we going to do with this text today...**

- Let's break it up a little so we can get to the heart of God's intentions this morning...
 - **God willing!**
 - Gonna break these verses up into sections that are spread throughout the chapter
 - I am not going in sequential order... rather... order of Paul's thoughts...
 - He repeats the same themes over and over in different ways throughout these verses...
- 1) Men Have Exchanged God for Nothing
- 2) God Gave Men Over to Sin
- 3) Men Acted Out Their Sinful Disorder
- 4) Men Knowingly Approve of Disorder
- **Also... We are going to try to answer some practical questions you may have...**
 - Is homosexuality wrong in God's eyes
 - How should we respond as individuals, as a church...
 - What does it mean that our nation embraces homosexual behavior now
 - How do we treat a homosexual
 - Is Paul focusing on homosexuals here, or is his target larfer?

- ❖ **1) Men Have Exchanged God for Nothing**

- ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images
- ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,
- ²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God,
- **Do you see what man has done...**

- We exchange the glory of God for images
- We exchange truth about God... for lies
- We do not see fit to acknowledge God...
- **Remember** where Paul is coming from in chapter 1...
 - **These** verses here are not an isolated thought...
 - They are preceded and followed by thoughts...
 - Look at the large picture...
 - ◆ Paul is not writing this letter so he can point out the sins of people...
 - ◆ Rather... He is wanting to turn the attention to the Work of Jesus...
 - **Remember** verse 16 the gospel is the power of God unto salvation
 - **Remember** verse 17 in the Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed
 - **Remember** verse 18 (The reason the gospel is so important)
 - The wrath of God is being... even at this very moment... revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...
 - **And now notice what Paul is doing...**
 - He is trying to make everyone that reads this... Run back to verse 16...
 - The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe...
 - **So, Paul Points out Sin...**
 - Paul is showing us the depth of our problem...
 - He is showing us how bad we are...
 - We are so far from God... that we are willing to exchange the Glorious God
 - ◆ For nothing...
- **Exchange:** Let's get down to how deep the depravity of man has gone...
 - **Exchange means to put something in the place of another**
 - **Usually when people exchange things, it is for something of equal value**
 - **If I wanted a new vehicle, I would exchange the right amount of money**
 - ◆ **To equal the value of the vehicle...**
 - **That is not what happens here...**
- **Illustration:**
 - **Exchanging something for nothing...**
 - Hi, My son has been playing Madden 15 (xbox 360) for a year now and has spent hundreds of dollars and hours building up his team. He lives and breathes Madden 15. Apparently, just a few minutes ago, someone online tricked into trading all of his good players away for crap players. He was going to trade for a good player and the guy told him he had to do all of these trades before he could get to the actual trade. He is in tears and feels horrible. How can we go about rectifying this?
 - This reminds me of other silly games we spend money on...
 - ◆ Like candy crush or clash of clans or trivia crack
 - In the end... we spent money... got a little fun out of it... but are ultimately left with nothing...
 - I one time gambled at a casino... the first and last... (I know I shouldn't have...)
 - Because gambling shows a lack of trust in God for provision
 - At it's root is greed to gain someone else's money without working for it
 - It also shows a love of money... which is the root of all evil...
 - Gambling is also not a very good way to manage what God has given us...
 - Therefore, Gambling goes against most of the principles God has given us in His Word
 - Many people in the church today... and maybe even in here...
 - Have gambled more money away than they have given to the Lord...

- **Anyway...** I spent like \$60 at a roulette table...
 - I would have been wiser to have given that money to the Lord...
 - Instead... I lost it all \$20 at a time... poof... it was gone... and I got nothing in return...
 - ◆ Even if I had won... I would have been left with nothing...
- **Mankind has made a colossally bad deal...**
 - They have exchanged the glory and truth and knowledge of God
 - ◆ For lies and images and a lack of understanding...

➤ **Exposition**

- ²³ **and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images**
 - Glory of Immortal God for images...
 - Instead of worshipping God who is from forever and is forever
 - ◆ They go with something a little more untrustworthy...
 - ◆ They worship images of created things...
 - ◆ Things that will not last
 - ◆ Things that have no beauty or glory from themselves...
 - ◆ Things that relied on God for their very existence...
 - **Man has decided to worship those things that do not last...**
 - ◆ So, man gives their time and energy and devotion and possessions...
 - To something other than God...
 - How sad it is that we have done this... look at yourself
 - **Question: In what ways have you done this? I am not asking IF you have... I know you have... I want you to ask HOW you have!**
- ²⁵ **because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,**
 - Man says... instead of the truth about God... I want a lie...
 - This is like saying... "Doctor... I feel really bad... But I do not want you to tell me I have a heart problem or Cancer... So... if you would... if that is the case... just tell me a lie... tell me I have indigestion or a muscle cramp"
 - ◆ Please... do not give me the truth... I want to make an exchange
 - ◆ I want to trade out the truth for a lie
- ²⁸ **And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God,**
 - Man also decided acknowledge God
 - They did not see it as fitting...
 - **Did not see fit:** This really brings with it the idea of judging...
 - ◆ They are like a judge of some sort...
 - ◆ Like... if you were putting together a basketball team and needed a center...
 - And I wanted to play that position...
 - You would look at my height and my play in the post
 - And you would say... You are not a good fit...
 - Men stood in judgment and did not see it as good judgment
 - ◆ To acknowledge God... to admit that He is God of creation

➤ **What about you?**

- **What about those who just do not seem so bad...**
 - You may be thinking... I am not like this... I know God is who He says He is...
 - But... what does your life say about you?
 - Not what you say about yourself!
- **There is a grave warning here...**
 - A warning that has been preceded throughout history with facts
 - Preceded with example after example of people who fell deeper and deeper into sin

- And Why did this happen... Because God did it to them...
- **Notice what happens to those who do not give proper honor to God...**
 - Who do not acknowledge God in their Lives
 - Who believe in lies and not the truth about God

❖ 2) God Gave Men Over to Sin

- ²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity,
- ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.
- 28... God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.
- **Oh how sad this is...** Let us be very careful that we do not get what we think we want...
- **What is happening here? God gave them up**
 - Same word is used all three times... God gave them up...
 - **What did He give them up to?**
 - To impurity
 - Dishonorable passions
 - Debased mind to do what ought no to be done
- **Sometimes God allows man to just have their way...**
 - My dad and cigarettes...
 - My grandpa caught him as a young boy sneaking one...
- **God's Judgment on men for their exchange of God for nothing....**
 - Is that He allows them to fall deeper and deeper into their sin...
 - Until they are like the prodigal son who was eating the pig food with the pigs...
 - Only here... they may never get up out of the slop....
- **He lists what He gives them over to...**
 - Impurity, dishonorable passions and a debased mind to do things they shouldn't...
 - Psalm 81:11-23 "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
¹²So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.
- **That is the back drop for what comes next...**
 - And it is important to see, so we can have a clear understanding:
 - That God is not at pleased with this sort of lifestyle...
- **Next we are going to look a little more into what God allows...**
 - Because, here, we just see the idea of what God gives them over to
 - Next Paul is going to expound specifically at how their
 - **Exchanging of God... and God's subsequent turning them over....**
 - Leads to specific acts
 - ◆ And these act display outwardly, what has occurred inwardly...
 - ◆ When they decided not to acknowledge God....
- **Stand in fear Oh Unrepentant Sinner...**
 - God may very well allow you to wonder even farther and farther into sin
 - Toward your own destruction...
 - Sin would have its way to its farthest degree
 - Lust would turn into adultery or even rape
 - Hatred would turn into murder or genocide
 - Greed would turn into large scale theft
 - Self righteousness could turn into blindness of sin and full blown Pride
- **Stand in fear Saint of God**
 - God will bring disciple to you because of your sin...
 - And one of the ways He may decide to discipline you is to let you just continue deeper
 - He may allow you to fall more and more into sin
 - Unless you repent!

- Sin is ready to break loose as an ember from a fire and set the whole house on fire...
- Let's look practically at what Paul is telling us about generally so far...
 - He gets very specific...

❖ 3) Men Acted Out Their Sinful Disorder

- 24..... to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,
- 26... For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ 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.
- ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.
- 1) **Dishonoring their bodies... among themselves...**
 - Bodies made in the image of God
 - Dishonoring simply means to do something shameful
 - Something that should cause shame
 - So this is the first thing we see here in God's turning the people over to their own desires...
 - That He is going to allow them to do something shameful with their bodies...
 - Now... we are not sure at this point, exactly what He has in mind...
 - Are they going to cut themselves, or over eat or wear bad clothes...
 - Well... we are about to find out...
- 2) **The exchange of natural relations between men and women**
 - Look again at vs 26-27 26... For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ 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.
 - It is very very clear what is being talked about here...
 - God is speaking of homosexual behavior...
 - **Lets Stop and settle in here for just a moment...**
 - There is a lot of debate and confusion over this issue in verse 26-27
 - There have been yahoo article after yahoo article...
 - not to mention all the stuff on facebook...
 - Saying that homosexuality is not a sin... it is not a sin in the Bible....
 - But, let me try to show you that it is very easy for the deceiver to twist God's Word
 - ◆ But, that you should be able to see it clearly for what it is...
 - **So... Homosexuality.... Is it Ok? In short... the answer is NO... not at all...**
 - What these articles are trying to convince Bible believers of... is that what paul intended here... is not homosexual acts between two loving people...
 - **They say Paul is referring to promiscuity among people of the same sex**
 - ◆ He is talking about immoral same sex relationships...
 - ◆ He is not at all speaking against people that are in a committed loving relationship
 - **But, they have to do a lot of twisting to make it seem like they are right...**
 - And they try to go back and use the greek terms so as to confuse the reader
 - And they make it so confusing that a person would walk away and say...
 - ◆ Well, maybe they are right...

- **They even make the argument that it isn't until recently that Bible scholars even translated some of these words to mean homosexuality...**
 - But none of what they are saying is true...
 - I am not going to go into every verse that speaks against homosexuality...
- **I am going to try to show you clearly here from this text, that Paul is very clear**
 - **1) In the beginning God made us in His image**
 - ◆ And He made them male and female
 - ◆ And He put them in the garden together to be fruitful and multiply
 - ◆ So we see very early... the purpose of God in the establishment of the family
 - ◆ It was to be between a man and woman... and they were put together to multiply
 - Now... I understand that many may look at this and say...
 - Well... just because God didn't make two men or two women doesn't mean he is against it..
 - And that is true...
 - ◆ **But... from the beginning of the Bible...**
 - God gives a very clear indication of His view on the marriage relationship...
 - God very clearly shows His intentions...
 - **2) These verses by Paul say that men and women both:**
 - ◆ exchanged natural relations for those that are unnatural....
 - This is a very clear statement by Paul that men with men and women with women
 - Is an unnatural act between them...
 - ◆ **Twisters of God's Word try to lead you to believe Paul is not saying this...**
 - But it is plain to see... and it takes a lot of Bible gymnastics to change it...
 - "that which is unnatural" (ten para phusin) is a stock phrase in Greek ethical literature of the time for homosexual behavior per se,
 - "Contrary to nature" in this text, as it most Hellenistic literature of the time, meant homosexual behavior per se.
 - **3) Paul makes it very clear**
 - ◆ **and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another**
 - ◆ Natural relations are exchanged for something else...
 - And the result is that they were consumed with being with the same sex
- **To me, this is all very clear... and I have really simplified it...**
 - There is much more that could be said to prove it...
 - There are more texts throughout the Bible...
 - **But this text is not only about Homosexuality...**
 - ◆ That is just one way in which God has turned men over to sin... only one way...
- **3) Filled with All manner of sin** (We have a huge list here: Huge, and it points at all of us)
 - **1) unrighteousness, 2) evil, 3) covetousness, 4) malice. They are full of 5) envy, 6) murder, 7) strife, 8) deceit, 9) maliciousness. They are 10) gossips, ³⁰ 11) slanderers, 12) haters of God, 13) insolent, 14) haughty, 15) boastful, 16) inventors of evil, 17) disobedient to parents, ³¹ 18) foolish, 19) faithless, 20) heartless, 21) ruthless.**
 - Look at this list... do you see your struggle in here?
 - **How about the fact that Paul says that all of these things:**
 - Are things that we are given over to... they come from a debased mind
 - Before He gives this list He says... **"God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.**
 - Debased means... bad or worthless....

◆ Not God honoring

▪ **Interestingly... Paul puts something as basic as “disobedient to parents”**

• Think on that for just a moment please...

▪ **There is another list in**

• 1 Corinthians 6:9-10⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

➤ **Our need for the gospel...**

▪ Paul is not trying to pick on one type of person... rather... He hits us all...

• He was a murderer... He is making the point... we are all guilty before God

▪ We need the Gospel

❖ **4) Men Knowingly Approve of Sinful Disorder**

▪ 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.

➤ They know these things are fatally wrong, but approve of them

➤ Those who practice such things deserve to die... (this is the judgment on man)

❖ **Response to Homosexuality**

➤ Remember that you to have sinful tendencies

➤ Our problem today is the glorifying and institutionalizing of sinful behavior

▪ Isaiah 5:20-21 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!

➤ **Do we glorify other sins in our nations? Abortion, pride etc?**

➤ **Is homosexuality/transgenderism something people are born with...**

▪ Maybe... so what?

▪ This does not make it right....

➤ **We are fallen and disordered people**

▪ Lust filled, greed, anger, etc

▪ Every person wars within them...

▪ Romans 7:23-24 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

➤ **How do we treat people that are homosexual?**

▪ Studying this has given me a greater love for people that have this desire within them...

▪ I too have sinful desires...

▪ Mine are different... but no less disordered...

➤ **What about your sin?**

➤ **What if you struggle** with homosexuality today? (I would say the same thing to anyone struggling with sin) Because you are not alone in disordered desires... your not!

▪ Ask God to shed light in your heart

▪ Seek the mind and glory of God and not your own pleasure

▪ Obey God and not culture

▪ Trust in the promises of God

▪ Sacrifice for a season until God answers your prayers...

❖ **Response to our Sin Today**

❖ Invitation