

Intro.*Rom. 1:18-32*

- A. “Bill” was a fine Christian young man, with a powerful influence.
 1. A not-so-nice girl caught his eye, & “Bill” started associating w/ her & her friends.
 2. He hoped to influence her, but...– dropped out of church, drinking, dancing, drugs
- B. James, Paul & Timothy knew sin can effect us (**Jas. 4:7; c. 2 Tm. 2:22**) – Joseph, **Gn. 39:6-12**
 1. Isaiah speaks of sin as being very personal, **Isa. 59:2**
 2. Paul knew that man is personally responsible for the effects of sin (c. **Rom. 5:12**)

Discuss.**I. Vs. 21 - DETHRONES GOD.**

- A. Paul is describing the effects of sin on people like us, who know God!
 1. The Romans knew God **vs. 21**, & they knew the righteous judgment of God, **vs. 32**
 2. This was an effort (consciously or subconsciously) effort to *get rid of God!*
- B. This method is a time-tested one, and its plot really has not changed, **c. Gen. 3:1-6**
 1. Think of the applications of **Psa. 14:1**- *school prayer, “In God We Trust”, 10 Commandments...*
 2. God is not revered by many today. Many use of His name is vain so frivolously they think nothing of it

II. Vs. 21f - DARKENS THE MIND.

- A. When anyone tries to ignore God, they just are not thinking right!
 1. *Darkened mind* = same as when Christ was on the cross, **Lk. 23:45**
 2. This condition involves a series of catastrophic circumstances (**Eph. 4:18**) – *no understanding, alienated from God, ignorant & blind*; Leads to thinking that it is O.K. to say *no* to God!
- B. This was the temptation of Satan (c. **Gen. 3:4f & Mt. 4:1-10** stones to bread, pinnacle of temple, kgdms)
 1. Satan depends on *vain reasoning* (empty thinking), like that described in **Mt. 13:15**.
 2. *Fools mock at sin* **Prov. 14:9**; remember why men love darkness rather than light **Jn. 3:19** - deeds evil.

III. Vs. 23 - DEIFIES MAN.

- A. The only way for man to become his own authority = to deify himself in place of God!
 1. Evidences of that mental transition is seen when we try to fit God into likeness of creatures He has made
 2. Once we determine that we can fashion God as we please, we can also decide our actions with which He will have to be pleased.
- B. **Ex. 32** is a case study divinely recorded.
 1. Israelites ordered Aaron, *make [for] us gods...[they] shall go before us.* **Vs. 1** ,
 2. Israel was *set on evil* **vs. 22**, and there *were unrestrained* **25**, & they *sinned against GOD*, **33**

IV. Vs. 25 - DEPARTURES FROM GOD’S STANDARD.

- A. Once you dethrone God & deify man, there is nothing to interfere with alteration of truth.
 1. Yesterday *homosexuality* only whispered; today they celebrate their “right” to marry.
 2. A generation ago, abortion was illegal; today, RU486 (the morning after pill) is readily available.
 3. Concern over the “D-“ word is *Gone With the Wind*, and as of Jan. 2004, **NO** language is inappropriate.
- B. In N. Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* -- “A” was intended to humiliate & degrade an adulteress.
 1. Today, “A” degrades another outcast – the absolutist – believes absolute rules & principles.
 2. The 21st Cent. World is quick to condemn those with Christian morals as intolerant, homophobic, bigots.
 3. You read the Book, and tell me God’s evaluation: **1 Cor. 6:9f; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; Rev. 21:8**

V. Vs. 26f - DEGRADES THE AFFECTIONS.

- A. This is when passions become disgraceful & man’s desires are improperly directed; he becomes immoral
 1. The beloved disciple said, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...* **1 Jn. 2:15**
 2. **Jn.15:19** *the world...love[s] its own...because you are not of the world...the world hates you.* **1 Jn. 3:1**
- B. To a very large extent, our world has become **morally perverted**.
 1. This is precisely what happened in city of Sodom, in Rome, and in the USA today!
 2. What are the desires of YOUR heart? (**Heb. 4:12; Gn. 3:16; Psa. 38:9**) We *set our affections...* **Col.3:2**

VI. Vs. 28f - DESTROYS MORALS.

- A. To be mentally & morally perverted is to think incorrectly about God & righteousness.
 - 1. It is bad not to think right about God & what is right. c. **Lk. 11:24-26**
 - 2. The situation grows worse when improper thinking occupies the mind in absence of right thinking. \\
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- B. In text, the void God should occupy is ***filled*** (stuffed, to level or cram, c. **Lk. 6:38**) with wrong things.
 - 1. Their mind is ***debase*** (*reprobate*) = failing a test (e.g., of metals), & found worthless.
 - 2. This conditions effects ones ***character, conduct, conversation & concepts.***

VII. Vs. 30f - DIVIDES MEN.

- A. Text describes the effect of sin in relationship between individuals, & that is seen all the way back to Cain & Able, **Gn. 4**
- B. These traits are exactly what divide men today.

VIII. Vs. 32 - DELIGHTS IN EVIL.

- A. *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil... Isa. 5:20*
 - 1. Those who *consent* with thief...a partaker with adulterers **Psa. 50:18**
 - 2. (I.e., approved, pleased with, favorable towards) c. **Rom. 2:22** Describes religiously pious, but sinners!
- B. Have you ever noticed the reaction of the chief priests to Judas' readiness to betray Jesus? **Mk. 14:10f**
 - 1. How do you react to evil?
 - 2. Do those living in adultery have your consent? Will the politician upholding homo. Marriage & abortion receive you consent & vote???

Concl.

- A. The consequences of sins effects are found in this chapter, **vs. 24, 26, 28** *God gave them up to uncleanness, to vile passions, & over to a debase mind.*
 - 1. According to **Psa. 81:11-13**, God will eventually give up on the stubborn; He will give them over to a stubborn heart when they refuse to listen to His plea & reject His invitation.
 - 2. The Psalmist knew something of the effects of sin, and the goodness of God, **Psa. 84:10-12**
- B. Knowing the effect sin can have and maybe already has had on your life, you may have a penitent & contrite heart like that described in **Psa. 86:11-13**