

ROMANS 1:18-25 PART 4

INTRO:

- Today we will read and see that God will and has gives over a rebellious society into the hands of another.
- We will see this through 3 headings and then end with the proper response

- **WHY DID GOD GIVE THEM UP?**
- **HOW DID GOD GIVE THEM UP?**
- **TO WHAT DID GOD GIVE THEM UP TO?**
- **THE PROPER RESONSE.**

- Read **Rom. 1:18-32**

- God gave them up. This phrase is used 3 X marks 3 stages in a downward progression.
- 24, 26, 28.
- This collapse begins with an increased tolerance for sexual immorality, vs 24,
- followed by the celebration of homosexuality, vs 26,
- then a complete loss of both logical and moral sense, vs. 28.
- The term is used in a judicial sense. Used in Greek literature to describe law courts and criminal proceedings, handing over a prisoner for punishment.
- Here it expresses the reality that God has delivered over a society to sentencing and judgment.
- To give into the hands of another, to give over into ones power or use.

WHY DID GOD GIVE THEM UP?

- Vs. 23, They changed the glory of the incorruptible God. They did not do away with the thought of God or a god, but decided to make a good of their own liking, a god who would not make them uncomfortable.
- Instead of the truth of God mankind chose to embrace a self-fabricated lie. (Darwinism.)
- To them a lie has become a irrefutable truth and the truth is a irrefutable lie.
 - Isa. 5:20; 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! ²¹ Woe to *those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!*
- Men have rejected God's revelation of Himself and substituted their own ideas and imaginations of God, which is not God at all but idol, they then worship their own creation.
- Here we see that man has suppressed the truth (vs. 18), and has manifested and exposed the evil on their own hearts.

- And because that when they knew God through creation, they did not, would not, glorify Him, (vs. 21)
- All of creation shows forth the glory of God, yet the pinnacle of God's creation, man, refuses to glorify Him.
- Man above everything else was created to show forth the glory of God.
- In psalm 104 the Psalmist shows how everything in creation manifests the glory of God by obeying the God given law of its nature.
- Man, alone does not do so, because of this David ends this Psalm with "let the sinners be consumed from the earth. "
- All is in order under God except man.
- The being meant to manifest God's glory above all other work of creation is the one who fails.
- Man has suppressed the truth in his attitude toward God.
- They worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.
- They not only gave preference to the creation but actually "passed by" the Creator, counting Him "not worthy" of their approval.
- They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, when in their consciences they recognized the great Being of creation,
- His attributes having been clearly seen, they exchanged this truth and reality and invented a lie in their minds, on their tongues, and in their actions.
- They abandoned the true eternal Creator and raised up in their vain minds things created to worship thus robbing God of His just worship.
 - Ex. 34:14, our is a jealous God; you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God.
- Finally, in man's eyes God had failed their test, He did not live up to or measure up to the standard they had erected in their hearts for a god. For this reason God gave them up. Handed them over.

HOW DID GOD GIVE THEM UP?

- At a certain point God has had enough, He lets go and turns the people in the society over to the sentence they have passed upon themselves.
- Here the wrath/anger of God is manifest in the removal of His restraining grace thus allowing a corrupt culture to continue headlong into deeper and deeper moral depravity and ruin.
- God removed His restraining hand of grace from their lives, which He is free to do, having no obligation to confer this grace upon rebellious man.
 - He is free to give or withhold as He see fit. He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy. (Rom. 9)
- Men chose to give God up, God then gave them up into the hand, the power of the sinful things they preferred to God. Those lust which had been restrained by the grace of God.
- This giving over was a judicial act.
- The impurities, uncleanness into which they were plunged sprung from their own corrupt hearts.
- God gave them up to uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts.

- Their jailor was uncleanliness, their warden was their lusts.
- The abandonment came from Divine justice, but the effect and outcome came from the corruption of the heart of man.
- God had no part in their choice of corruption. It was already there.

TO WHAT DID GOD GIVE THEM UP?

- **Uncleanness:** The impurity of lustful, luxurious, reckless behavior.
- Uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts.
- Their sin is a consequence of His abandonment which resulted due to their perversity and rebellion.
- God gave them up unto the dishonoring of their bodies between themselves. (Vs. 24)
- Dishonor; treat shamefully, insult,
 - **1 Cor. 6:18**
- **Fornication;** "unlawful sexual intercourse," Any sexual behavior outside of marriage. **1 Cor. 5:1;**
- Those who have dishonored God, if not repented, will dishonor their own bodies.

CONCLUSION: THE PROPER RESPONSE.

- **Vs. 25; Who is blessed forever.** A term showing what is to be the posture of the soul and body towards the Lord.
- Blessed: To speak well of, to eulogize, to speak good of someone.
- God is to be spoken well of at all times, He is to be honored and adored, nothing should be taken away from Him.
- Blessed by us, revered in all things, cherished and appreciated forever.
- It denotes that we should never speak of God but with profound respect accompanied with praise and thanksgiving.
- Paul could not restrain himself, but added a hearty "amen."
- This condemns idolatry and signifies that God alone is worthy to be eternally served, adored and worshipped.
- **Forever,** an unbroken age, perpetuity of time eternity. Aion (eye- own)
- These thoughts of God are too high for us. We come as little children, not to figure everything out, or to have all the answers, or even to understand everything, we come to God to worship, praise, adore and receive.
- We must not put our ideas or difficulties or thoughts or feelings before God's revelation of Himself in the scriptures.
- We must be pleased to limit ourselves of what God has said about Himself and that in the scriptures.

Let us examine ourselves and make sure we are worshipping the God who is. Putting Him first, blessing Him now in everything and forever more.