

Musing #43 — Romans 1:24-32

All of humanity is without excuse, because all...

- have a conscience—an inner awareness of right & wrong
- are a part of creation—a universe of God's creativity

We talked about Jesus' descent into Hades upon his death

- where he addressed the dead who are lost
- then ascended with all past believers to heaven

For unbelievers — **1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...**

Later in verse 30, He refers to the general population as....**"inventors of evil"**

Most people believe they have risen above their primal, animalistic beliefs and they thus want a god who is kinder, gentler, grandfatherly, and who understands how difficult it is to be human. A god they don't have to fear. But sin always keeps the world system from working the way God intended.

When God declares a certain action as "off-limits"— that action has to have consequences. And, although about 2500 BC God decided it was time for a "start over" He removed all but Noah's 8 in the flood...but eventually the new ones that were produced still made terribly bad choices. The Psalmist wrote—

Psalm 106:36-39 They worshiped their idols, and were caught in the trap of idols. They sacrificed their sons and daughters at the altars of demon gods. They slit the throats of their babies, murdered their infant girls and boys. They offered their babies to Canaan's gods; the blood of their babies stained the land. Their way of life stunk to high heaven; they lived like whores.

Unbelievers are blind to truth, always rejecting God's views on **Immorality**.

But God's truth transcends all cultures... and all people groups.

And many are aware of God, but when they don't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialize themselves into silliness and confusion so that there is neither sense nor direction in their lives.

Our country reflects, to a great degree, what happens when we remove God from areas of life, schools, government, and society at large. That is where we pick it up!

Romans 1:24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

Several books in the Bible (6-OT & 4-NT) offer clear information on God's view of homosexuality. There are those who would relegate those verses to a cultural application—seeing it as **relative truth**.

God's truth has absolute values based on absolute morality.

Genesis 18:20-21 So the Lord told Abraham, "I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. 21 I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know."

Gen. 19:1 That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground.

Gen. 19:4-5 But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house. 5 They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is linked with homosexuality—"sodomy" has become a synonym for the word in our society. *Note: sodomy – any sexual intercourse considered abnormal, especially between two men, or man and animals—Webster Dictionary)*

Leviticus 18:22 Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.

Leviticus 20:13 If a man practices homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act. They must both be put to death, for they are guilty of a capital offense.

Judges 19:22-23 While they were enjoying themselves, a crowd of troublemakers from the town surrounded the house. They began beating at the door and shouting to the old man, "Bring out the man who is staying with you so we can have sex with him." 23 The old man stepped outside to talk to them. "No, my brothers, don't do such an evil thing. For this man is a guest in my house, and such a thing would be shameful.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Period!!!

There are arguments that put these sins into the sociological or psychological arena—i.e. people are born with it. Or childhood experiences lead to a "propensity" toward homosexuality. But... the practice of these acts... still comes down to a choice, and according to the scriptures, the wrong choice is sin.

Let me share something that was in a newsletter put out by the Family Research Council a few years ago.

•"The homosexual rights movement becomes more aggressive each day. This movement wants more than "tolerance." Its goal is for homosexuality to be considered acceptable and normal. Our children are at risk. A nationwide campaign is now under way, already endorsed by the National Education Association and the ACLU, to place gay and lesbian counselors in public schools in America to help children decide how to deal with their "sexual identity".

Colossians 3:5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Ephesians 5:12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret.

Now... just as importantly, we should look at the fact that God's wrath is also tied to all of this... just as it is to all sin.

In our first session—**Romans 1:18** But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

He gives them over... He takes off His restraints.

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper...

The same Greek word that expresses "gave them over" is used often in the New Testament. God's purpose for turning people over to impurity is always redemptive.

Egypt was a good example of the world system. The river Nile—the Goddess of Life, was turned to blood. God gave them over... to have what they wanted. He allows the world to become slaves of their own degenerate minds. Sadly, our country is passing laws to approve much of this.

When the rapture of the church happens... all restraints will be removed and man will be in total control. And the tribulation will begin.

• **Jude 7** And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

History shows us these are the marks of a civilization nearing collapse. All sexual restraints are gradually being removed, and with that comes an increase in cruelty and violence.

People say..."why does God allow all of this?" Only when "darkness" prevails are many people ready to welcome the light. We see this in the response to 9/11, or Charlie Kirk's assassination. Darkness causes many to consider the light. But most will "learn to just accept" the deviant thinking that leads to destruction. Paul expands on who they are. **29-32 ...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.**

Haters of God—Approving of those who stand against God.

In Proverbs 1:22-33, we find how God sees those who refuse His ways. King Solomon had a deep sense of mercy toward those who reject God's ways. Yet, he did not mince words in his exhortation in addressing the young especially. The reader can sense his grief as he cries out to them.

Simpletons! How long will you wallow in ignorance?

Cynics! How long will you feed your cynicism?

Idiots! How long will you refuse to learn?

About face! I can revise your life.

Look, I'm ready to pour out my spirit on you;

I'm ready to tell you all I know.

As it is, I've called, but you've turned a deaf ear;

I've reached out to you, but you've ignored me.

Since you laugh at my counsel

and make a joke of my advice,

How can I take you seriously?

I'll turn the tables and joke about *your* troubles!

What if the roof falls in,

and your whole life goes to pieces?

What if catastrophe strikes and there's nothing

to show for your life but rubble and ashes?

**You'll need me then. You'll call for me, but don't expect
an answer.**

No matter how hard you look, you won't find me.

Because you hated Knowledge

and had nothing to do with the Fear-of-God,

Because you wouldn't take my advice

and brushed aside all my offers to train you,

Well, you've made your bed—now lie in it;

you wanted your own way—now, how do you like it?

Don't you see what happens, you simpletons, you idiots?

Carelessness kills; complacency is murder.

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,

And will be secure, without fear of evil.

The answer to our chaotic world has, and is, always the same—the God who is among us through His indwelling Spirit. The Lord of all lords who has paid the ultimate price of His life for our sins—past, present, and future.

To those who choose to ignore and reject the ways of God—judgment is coming. The signs of the times suggest it to be... very soon!