

Title: What Happens When God Gives Up?

Text: Romans 1:24-32

Romans chapter 1 beginning with Vs 24. We want to pick up our study where we left off last week. Romans chapter 1 verse 24....

(Read Romans 1:24-32)

Would you join me for a moment of prayer as we ask God's direction on the message for today?

(PRAYER)

As I was studying this passage it occurred to me how simply we accept the matter of sin. In this day and age we just seem to accept in and justify it. In verses 18-23, we learned why God has condemned all people. They had a revelation of God in creation which they have rejected. And when you leave God out off your life, dear friends, the way you are headed is Romans 1:24-32.

It is also true that when a nation comes to a maximum level of sin, such as described in Romans 1, the Bible predicts in the O.T. that God will judge that nation. ^{Now} You might be interested in the way God says He will judge the nation. And that is by another nation. He will let another nation defeat it. God's judgment comes upon that nation because it is not following the moral principles and standards of His word. ^{Do you understand?} ~~Dear friends~~, when sin comes to a maximum level in a society, you can count on it, it is going to happen, that nation is going to be judged.

So, what we are reading, here, in Romans 1 is a brief insight of what many say is happenings, right now, to our nation. But, I see it as far more than that. I see it as an insight of what is true in the heart of ^{ungodly people} ~~every~~ man and woman. And that is why it is so important to tell folks about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For it is only in Jesus that we can understand and experience God's wonderful forgiveness and love.

You see, God loved us so much that inspite of what our sinful

nature is, our Lord Jesus paid the price for our sin through His shed blood on the cross. Oh, dear friends, there is forgiveness in JesusPRAISE GOD...And there isn't any condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus....PRAISE THE LORD.....AMEN1

Now, we are studying the principle of Condemnation which begins with chapter 1, verse 18 and goes to chapter 3, verse 20. In these verses, God is going to deal with different kinds of people. For example, in chapter 2, Paul deals with a person who is self-righteous. One who doesn't feel that he is such a bad sinner. Yet, Paul says that he is, also, condemned.

(1C) But, today, we are talking about the UNGODLY PERSON. Those folks who do not claim real religious belief. They do not claim to be good or righteous or anything else. They know what they are. They are sinners. And God is telling us why these folks are condemned. (1D) The first reason why the ungodly are condemned we studied last week. And that is because of their rejection of the revelation of God in creation. All people have that revelation. All people know that Gods exist. And thus, according to Vs 20, they are without excuse.

You know, dear friends, I am glad the Bible tells it like it is. I don't particularly care for this message. It hurts, but, it is in the Bible. It tells us how things really are. And I find more and more, in our day, that we are trying to eliminate Romans chapter 1. We are living in a day when Romans chapter 1 is very much on target. And I hope you will understand that. And I also trust that you will remember that if you are a Christian, ~~this~~ ^{we} ~~isn't~~ ^{are not talking about you.} ~~doesn't apply to you.~~ But, if you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as your saviour, then this passage is talking to you.

Vs 24 says, "THEREFORE" .. Literally.."on account of this thing".. On account of what thing?...On account of the fact that

some folks have rejected God in creation. On account of that God gave them up.

Now, there are three times in this passage that we have the statement: god gave men up.

First, in Vs 24, "God gave them over or up to the lusts of their hearts to impurity. Literally, to all dishonors.

Secondly, in Vs 26 Gods gave them over or over to degrading passions.

Third, Vs 28 God gave them over or up to a depraved mind.

This is what God has done. God does give up on people, you see, when people give up on God. When people start to say, "I can run my own life. I don't need God." And the results will be a manifestation of the sins described here in Romans chapter 1.

Now, building upon what we studied last week: God gave up on ungodly people because they rejected the revelation of God in creation.

(2D) Now, the second reason why all the ungodly are condemned is because of the results that you will see in their unchecked natural desires. As these natural desire of people come to the forefront, they are no longer checked. They are no longer held back by the fact that one day I am accountable to God. And so we eliminate God, and we ignore Him. And man now is subjected to that which he thought would never happen to him. He becomes a slave to himself. And the results of the unchecked natural desires is seen very clearly in verses 24 to 27. There are three things that I want to share with you here.

(1E) Number one..Vs 24..here we see a person controlled by physical desires. And notice, he isn't controlling them. They are controlling him. The Bible says in Vs 24 that God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be

dishonored among them...or..Literally "themselves." This is a sad state as to what happens when people decide that they can operate their life without God.

(2E) The second thing that I would like you to notice is that in Vs 25 they became concerned for the creature rather than the creator.

It says that "they exchanged the truth of God". The truth that they know from creation. That God is sovereign and that He has a right over my life.

And my responsibility is to obey that authority. When I reject that truth and substitute a lie "I worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator"

The lie is that "I" am more important than God.

Now, we do that all the time. We let some person, whether he be a loved one..father, wife, child, boyfriend, girlfriend, or whatever. We let someone become more ^{important} than God..

And it gets to the point that we worship the creature, the created thing whether it is man or thing, more than ~~they~~ ^{we} are worshiping and serving God...

Do you believe it is possible, right now, in ~~the~~ ^{my} group, that there are those who are serving something, or some person, more than they are almighty God?.....WHY YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT IS TRUE...

Who are we to say that we are free from this. And this is man's great lie. It comes from Satan. It is rooted in hell. Satan teaches us that some how something or someone is more important than God.

There are ^{some of you} ~~many~~ listening to me right now who knows that it is true. Oh, we believe in God. Yet, in our hearts there is something or someone who become more important than God.

That is the lie. And what will happen sooner or later is that God will give that person up. Because you do not recognize the sovereignty of God. He will let happen in your life what is predicted here in Romans 1.

Even though you might have programmed it in your life not to do in in actual deed. You mind will be felled with Romans 1. For God also gives them up to a depraved mind.

So, they become concerned for the creature more than the creator.

(3E) The third thing I notice is that they become totally corrupted by unnatural passions...Not natural passions, but unnatural ones....

^{Honourably - God will not do this}
Now, we see this in two ways in Vs 26 and 27 in the case of man and women. In Vs 26 he says, "God gave them up to degrading passions," or, ever kind of dishonor. Every kind of shame.

Men and woman were created in the image of God. God wanted you like you are. He designed you like you are. But when you do not recognize his sovereignty, you can become something that God never meant ^{you} to be.

You will ~~be come~~ ^{become} corrupted by unnatural desires and passions. ^{and} You will not know how it hit you. As a matter of fact, you may think you are in control of it. You may think you are the master over it.....Oh, no, God says when you reject Him, the corruption that will follow is that they will now control you.

^{SO)} (1F) In the case of women, we read in Vs 26, "For their women exchanged the nature function for that which is unnatural or against nature."

(2F) "and in the same ^{vs 27} way" also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

When I was studying this passage, I was amazed at the usage of the words for "man" and "woman." In the Greek language there are two very common words which I expected to see one of the two here. But neither one is found in our passage. And there was a strange word which I couldn't recall....

What was this word which was translated into English as "male" and "female"? It wasn't the common words that I was familiar with...

So, in trying to discover the answer, God showed me an important truth. Because the root of the word "male" and "female" but with a little compound word is referring to sodomy, homosexuality, which is ~~not~~ mentioned in both the O.T and the N.T.

So, God says that men and women have a tendency this way. It is in their nature to go against the original design of God. Against natural use. The tendency is to be this way. ^{to} Men with men and women with women...WHY.....

Because they one day rejected God.....They decided they could live without Him. They may have professed believe in Him, but they decided they could operate without God.

And here we see it in our newspapers and on T.V. It is all over. Let's don't hid from it anymore. Let's stop running away from it. The Bible isn't keeping it a secret. The Bible warns us about this sin. The Bible knows our human problem. Whether it is in this point of history or in the past.

God knows what we are like. He knows what we are facing.

And I say to you again, not only will this be damaging to the individual, but also as a nation. A nation will experience the judgement of God if they continue to go this way. And we are fast going that way: condoning it and justifying it. Even those who know that homosexuality is wrong will not speak out against it. And I get sick and tired of watching T.V. programs and reading articles about those who say this is alright. It is just another form of sexual response....THAT IS A LIE....It is straight from Satan...

You talk to these people. You ~~will~~ ^{will} discover that they are bound by sin. And they are are crying out "God, help me". ^{We should help by steering the only way that will free them from sin - The Love of Christ} ~~But~~, the world keeps telling them that they are alright. And we christians just go along with it...

Listen, God's Word doesn't go along with it. It is not right. That is not how God designed people. It is not his will. *1 Cor 6:9*

But this is what happens, when people ~~decide~~ decide that they can run their lives without God.

It is interesting, also, in Vs 27 that the Bible says "that they burned in their desire towards one another."

The word "burned" means just what you think it does. Literally, "set on fire"...They are now possessed and obsessed with this. They no longer control it. It controls them. ~~.....~~

Come To
(3D) Now, beginning with Vs 28 we learn the third ~~major~~ reason why the ungodly are condemned. They are condemned because they reject God in creation. They are condemned because of the results that will be seen in their lives. These unchecked natural passions.

(3D) Now, third, in their refusal to acknowledge God, himself. Vs 28 says: "and just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer."

Now, there are two Greek words for knowledge. One, is knowledge by fact. You tell a child not to put his finger into the fire or he will burn himself. ~~.....~~ ~~.....~~ That is knowledge by fact. You know as an adult that fire will burn. And if they do it they will get burned.

And if the child would only go away and say, "Dad knows the facts. And therefore, I am going to listen to him and do what he says." Dad has the fact

But you and I know that doesn't hapen. The child puts his finger in the fire and he is burned. That is knowledge by experience. It is the second kind of knowledge in the Bible. There is knowledge by fact. And there is knowledge by experience.

Now, when you put both of those concepts together, you have what the Bible discribes as "FULL KNOWLEDGE" or "MATURE KNOWLEDGE."

And that is what we have here in Vs 28. You see ungodly people do not like to retain God in their full mature knowledge.

Are these people helpless, inocent victims of themelves?....NO...God says they know the facts. They know about the God of creation. And now by experience they have experienced the corruption that God said would come. They know all of this. And you would think that they would now flee to God and cry out for mercy, BUT DO THEY?....NO...The Bible says they don't even want to retain God. They don't even like the idea of retaining God. They are going to fight, now, to get rid of God....

(1E) So, notice the immidiate consequences. That is the first thing. The immidiate consequence. Vs 28 says that "God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.

"Depraved mind" means there isn't s single thing that they could think off which God would approve of. Nothing....Because one day they desided that they could live without God. They could run their life without him. And now there is nothang t in their life which meats with God's approval....

So, God gave up on them...WHY?....because they gave up on God....

Friends, it is such a dangerous thing to ignore God.

Also, Vs 28, they practiced those things which are not proper. They end up doing those things that they thought they could avoid.

(2E) Sedondly, the corruption they will manifest. In Verse 29 to 31 you have a listing of all these things that some people like to just read over quickly and then forget.

Now, maybe you have done this. You are reading through this text and you are thinking about all those awful people out there... You know, all those people filled with unrighteousness, wickedness, greed. Those terrible people. And all of a sudden there is someone tapping you on the head and saying: "It is not all those people out there, preacher, it is YOU... You are the one I am talking about.... *And maybe God is talking to you the man*

Now, We don't like to see that. I shared Romans 1 with a person, once, And when I was finished this person had the courage to say: "WELL, THAT IS NOT ME."

But Now, let's just look at this carefully and let's see if any of us belong there. And stay with me. If one thing doesn't hit you, something else just might.

Notice
 (1) Now, ~~first of all~~, there are three groupings in those verses. And these groupings are very important.

~~Notice~~ Vs 29 starts out by saying "being filled with"...and there are four words following that phrase.

And Now, the point is: "ALL ~~MAN~~ ^{Folk} HAVE BEEN FILLED." It started with Adam. And it is still true today. Every human being is filled with sin. And sin is described with four words.

Here They Are:
 (1f) Let me give them to you: UNrighteousness....wickedness....greed,...and malice which is the word for "evil."

Four words which describe sin. And all people are filled with sin. So, you see, sin is being described. And everybody has sin.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS....You have not righteousness of your own. None what so ever. All people are unrighteous.

Secondly, we are wicked. Meaning, we can think of all kinds of things to do to others which is sin.

Third, greed. We want our own way and things. And sometimes we want things more than God. And we desire things that others have.

Then evil or malice. Malice is those things each of us design to further the fact that all of us are selfish. We are all selfish so we think of ways to promote that selfishness.

Now, the Bible says that all people are characterized by these four traits
(2F) O.K. the second grouping starts in Vs 29 with the phrase "FULL OF".
And there are five words which follow that phrase.

The point is that all people since Adam are "filled with" sin. We are all sinners. But, the way this is expressed in attitude is that each person is individual ^{filled} full with the following attitudes:

One, envy....now, I know that doesn't refer to anyone here.

Two, murder.....You say, I am not a murder. But the Bible says if you have thought it in your heart, you have done it.

Third, strife....have you ever caused strife between people....

Four, deceit...Have you ever deceived someone....just once...

Five, malice. Now, this is a different word than the word translated "malice" in the first group. This word means that I really want to do evil to someone. It is an attitude.

Now, these five traits express the attitudes of all people who are filled with sin.

(3F) ^{But} Now, we are not finished. ~~These things are expressed in the third~~ ^{We have a third} grouping. In this third group we have 12 areas of life or death. It begins with the word "they" at the end of Vs 29

First, we have the word "gossips"...Of course that doesn't apply to anyone.

Secondly, we have the word slanders. Have you ever slandered anyone?

Third, haters of God. Now, why do they hate God? You say, "I don't hate God." Let me ask. Are you resentful at what ^{God} He is doing in your life? Are you bitter towards Him for something? Are you having trouble liking this description of man? Haters of God.

Four, insolent. ~~It means "bad language that hurts people."~~ ^{This} It means "bad language that hurts people." You hurt them by the way you talk.

Now, ~~if I haven't reached you yet,~~ ^{Fifth} by five: arrogant or pride.

And the word means "showing oneself above another." Now, have you ever wanted to be in a place of leadership above someone else? Think about it.

Number six; boastful.....

Have you ever ask the question: Why do we boast? I mean if we know how wonderful we are and God knows it, why tell someone else? Why do we have to tell people about our accomplishments? Have you ever thought about that? "Did you hear what I did?"....No, and they really don't care. But they are polit so they listen. And you are happy because you told them. And you think others are impressed with what you did. And they aren't...WHY?... Because they are waiting to tell you what they did.....(HA)

Let's face it people. That is the way we are. And we don't like to see ourselves as others see us. Someday we must wake up to the fact that other people do not see us as we see our selves. That can be very frightening.

Number 7, inventors of evil. They are acturally designing evil things to do to people.

Number 8, here is one that ought to hit us: disobedient to parents. Right there in the Word of God, listed with all these corrupt things. Rebellion on every hand. And we sort of ignore it.

By the way, parents, do you know that kids really want authority and discipline? The one thing they haven't had for so many years is what they want. And parents are not standing up for the truth. Disobedient to parents.

Number 9, Vs 31, without understanding. The root meaning of that is stupid. I like that. Stupid people. Do you know why? Because ^{They}we are not recognizing the soverity of God.

Number 10, untrustworthy. Have you ever said to someone: I will do this. And you never did it. Or, you agree to service somewhere and resign have way through your term...Maybe once in your life....untrustworthy...

Number 11, unloving....You say, that is not me....Hold on...The root meaning of that word is "NO LOVE OF RELETIVES"....The in-laws are out-laws. No love of reletives.

Who is this talking about? The ~~un~~ungodly that are condemned and deserve judgement. Is it them, or us?

Number 12, without mercy. You don't really care about anybody but ~~yourself~~ yourself.. You lack the quality of mercy. Showing compassion of others.

and we need to be saved

Now, all of this is put before us to show us that people are corrupt. We are filled with all of this. ^{Do you understand why we need the Gospel?}

(3E) Well, now notice the third point. The ^{ultimate} ~~ultimate~~ consequence that men face in Vs 32 because of this. Because one day we decided that "I can operate without God." And all of this happened. Now, what is the ~~ultimate~~ ultimate consequences?

(IF) Vs 32... "and, although they know the ordinance (or judgement) of God." That is the first ^{consequence} ~~thing~~. The judgement of God. Do you believe that God is going to judge us for our sins? Do you think that there is a day coming when all of us will stand before God and be judged?

The Bible says in the book of Revelation chapter 20 that ^{all} unbelievers will stand before God at a place called THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT. ^{all} ~~and~~ ^{unbelievers} ~~they~~ will be judged according to the deeds that they have done. And the Bible says that whosoever was ~~not~~ found written in the BOOK OF LIFE will be cast into the lake of fire (~~hell~~).....

You say, DO YOU MEAN HELL?....YES.....That is what Jesus said. That is what ~~John~~ ^{John} said. That is what Paul said. That is what Peter said. Over and over again the Bible pleads with ^{Folks} ~~men~~ not to continue in the way you are going because of the ultimate consequences.

The immediate consequence is that you will destroy yourself. You will become corrupted. You will receive shame. You will waste your life. You will go to unnatural passions. You will destroy yourself. ^{That's the immediate} ~~do it~~. ^{consequence}

But, my friend, that is a drop in the bucket compared to the ultimate consequence of standing before the judgement seat of God. And the Bible says if you stand before the judgement of God having never received Christ as your saviour, turning your back on all opportunities ^{to} ~~to~~ repent of your sin and confess Christ, the Bible says if your name is not written in the book of life, you will be cast for all eternity into Hell..... ^{This is a serious matter}

(2F) Not only the judgement of God, but Vs 32 also says "that those who practice such things are worthy of death. Death is what I deserve.

and With all this sin, I deserve death. / ..Can you not understand what the forgiveness of God means? For God loved us so much that he sent Jesus Christ to die on a cross. Jesus took upon himself the sins of the whole world. He took my sins. He said, "I will pay for your sins. I love you. And I desire that non should perish."

And yet, many still *go* their own way and acts like *it* is not important. Or, the person says, "I believe in God. What are you talking about?" And he continues on doing his own thing.

Name only....profession only...having a form of godlyiness....but denying the power of *Jesus*. ~~The power of Jesus~~. The power is forgiveness of all sins. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus....

Do, you believe that? Oh, I trust you do. I pray you understand that. The forgiveness, the bath that you need after verses like this is the blood of Jesus Christ. His blood will pay for all sins. *Lets close & pray*

(3F())The last thing that I want you to see in Vs 32 is the consent that they give. You would think that now would be the time to repent and turn to God. But the Bible says that they now give consent, not only for themselves but for others. Vs 32 says "they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

They want others to join their band wagon. You know, Hell likes company. And I have notice that people who are corrupted just want company. They would like to pull everybody down on their level.

Why do people continue jto live in their sin when the Bible says that they know that something is wrong? Why?

and I ask you! Do you know that something is wrong? Then, flee to Jesus Christ. The only hope there is....is in Jesus Christ. You can't find it anywhere else. Not in your good deeds. *Not*, in all the things you think you can do for God....THE HOPE IS IN JESUS AND IN JESUS ALONE. There isn't any other hope. He died on the cross. He paid for evaerything that is wrong with us. Every sin that was named here in our text. He paid for it*fall*. And God loves you so much he wants to forgive you. *sure you do*

And that is why we believers love Jesus so much. Not because we are so great. But, because Jesus has forgiven us. PRAISE THE LORD.....

Let us close in prayer.

And that is what we are now going to do. In Communion we can remember the love of God. For God sent his Son to die for our sins - he was raised for our justification, and one day soon, I pray, he will return.