

LESSON 3 ROMANS 1:24-32

Romans 1:21-23 gives the basis for the following three points. It should be understood that this isn't God's desire for sinners, but their own desires for themselves as seen in the use of the phrase, "God gave them up..." He has revealed himself, but they have refused Him. He has given for them, but they have rejected it. So God has let them find the end of their choices.

GOD GIVES MEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THEIR OWN LUSTS

The lusts of men lead to impurity. This uncleanness results in abuse of self. Examples of *self-abuse* are: mutilation; eating disorders; drug abuse; sex outside of marriage; misuse of natural resources (tobacco, marijuana, coca, khat, etc.). Two reasons are given for these lustful pursuits:

1. People exchange God's truth for a lie.
2. People worship God's creation instead of Him, who is the creator.

GOD GIVES MEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE VILE AFFECTIONS

"dishonorable passions" – strong sexual desires that are not honorable

The example of this dishonorable passion, as stated in the text, is what our 2020 culture refers to as LGBTQ.

The consequence of this sinfulness is that they are proportionally rewarded within themselves. Their sin filled lifestyle, and its natural ramifications are themselves the punishment. (Many contemporary commentators point to STDs as the probable reference. However, sexual perversity also causes sickness in the mind as well as the body.)

GOD GIVES MEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE PERVERSITIES OF THEIR MINDS

What prompts God to allow human beings to fall into a worthless mental state? "...They did not see fit to acknowledge God." Now, God lets these rebels decline to a place where they routinely, and habitually do all kinds of wickedness.

Pastor's perspective: Verses 29-31 are likely not meant to be understood as a conclusive list of sins, but as a reference point in understanding subcultures where wickedness goes beyond the pale.

Ultimately, these are so degenerate that they know the sins they commit are capital offenses before a holy God, but they persist in them anyway. To compound their depravity, they approve of those who practice as they do. This seems to be a blatant defiance of God's expectation of holiness in Christ.