

“Homosexuality – Part 2”

Based on Romans 1:18-32

July 2, 2000 ► Sunday at 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Today’s sermon is a continuation from last week. Let me begin with a brief review. It may be most understandable to state first, *WHAT* God did and second, *HOW* people responded:

- *What is it that God did and continues to do?* Since the creation of the world, and through what has been created, God has made plain to all people certain things about Himself as well as what is right and wrong. Furthermore, God has revealed His wrath which comes upon all those who suppress the truth and practice wickedness. In other words, God basically said: “This is who I am, this is right, and this is wrong; therefore, trust in Me as your Savior, seek to know and follow my will, glorify Me, and give me thanks or I will punish you forever.”
- *How is it that people responded and continue to respond?* Even though all people have known and continue to know things about God, what is right and wrong, and about God’s coming wrath, many people have chosen evil over good, to suppress the truth, and they have failed to glorify God or give Him thanks; therefore, such people are without excuse, have become fools, and practice many sins.

First God acted, then people responded to God, some in a right way, most in a wrong way; now we see how God responded and continues to respond to the disobedient people as we continue with Romans 1:24.

1. **God gave them over.** Please understand that this entire section, from verse 24 through the end of the chapter, “speaks of those who turned from the true God.”¹ In other words, such people have pushed God completely out of their lives; therefore, God hands them over in order to allow sin to bring about their complete destruction. *Have you ever felt like this?* You told someone the truth, you pleaded with him to listen, and you told him the consequences; nevertheless, he was determined to go

¹R. C. H. Lenski, The Interpretation of St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1945), 108.

his own way; therefore, you basically gave up, threw up your arms, and said: “Go ahead, destroy yourself!” God basically does that same thing in three different ways in today’s text, beginning in verses 24, 26 & 28.

- a. *Sexual impurity* (vv. 24-25). **“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.”** Notice where the sinful desires are at—in their hearts, the very center of a person’s personality, the seat of his mind, emotions, and will. Last week I focused on homosexuality, which we will come to again in a moment; however, let us also know that any manner of sexual impurity is not tolerated by God. In fact, those who really trust in God desire to obey Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength!
- b. *Shameful lusts* (vv. 26-27). Since people pushed God away and degraded themselves with sexual impurity, He gave them over to shameful lusts. Notice verses 26-27: **“women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones... men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.”** *Is homosexuality natural or acceptable?* No! It’s unnatural and shameful; nevertheless, people not only choose to do such things, but even proudly make it known to others. That’s part of the problem with today’s world, very few things are considered shameful. Think about what the President of the United States did and yet many say it’s okay. Why? *Because many are just like him!*
- c. *A depraved mind* (vv. 28-32). In verse 28 Paul wrote: **“Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.”** You can read the list for yourself in verses 29-31. Unfortunately many in today’s world fall into those sins. If any of those sins describe your behavior, *I strongly encourage you to repent and believe before it is too late!*

In verse 32 we see the extreme of sin as people applaud, rather than regret, the sins of others. They do so even though they know that people who do such things deserve death and will eventually be punished for all eternity.

2. **Do not be deceived.** Many are often under the impression that sinning, sexual immorality, homosexuality, etc. is somehow okay and God will understand; however, do not be deceived. St. Paul tells us the truth in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 with these words: “Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” Did you hear what I said? Did you understand the categories? Many are deceived about such things! Many think they can indulge in such things and still enter into heaven; however, as Paul wrote, so I urge you: Do not be deceived! However, there is good news in the very next verse. St. Paul wrote: “And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” If you are caught in those sins, stop being deceived! Repent! Cling to Jesus Christ! Receive God’s forgiveness, before it is too late!
3. **Some other churches.** As I said last week, churches are supposed to side with and speak for God; however, some are not. Here are a few examples:
 - a. Plain Dealer, April 21, 2000, “Gay issues divide faithful” *The title itself is foolishness!* God’s Word is very clear. If you side with those who are gay, then you have slipped into agreeing with some of the things that are most detestable in God’s sight. That particular article was basically announcing the fact that “The Central Conference of American Rabbis...allow the blessing of same-sex unions.”
 - b. News Herald, April 28, 2000, “Methodists to address gays” In all fairness to the United Methodist Church, they

did defeat those who wanted them to endorse homosexual rights; nevertheless, one-third of all the delegates at their national meeting voted in favor of such rights. Then, in response to that decision, another article (P.D., June 10, 2000) reported that over 300 delegates in the New England conference have promised “to conduct same-sex union ceremonies and welcome gays and lesbians in ordination to ministry.”

- c. A response to a letter (dated October 10, 1997) I wrote to the Presbyterian Church (USA). This is their current position on homosexuality: “to welcome practicing homosexuals into church membership.” What a shame. They tell the people they are okay and welcome them; however, when those people stand before God (without repentance), He will condemn them forever.
- d. A response to a letter (dated October 16, 1997) I wrote to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). “this church teaches that gay and lesbian persons too are children of God and are welcomed to participate fully in the life of this church... one’s eternal salvation is not dependent of one’s sexual orientation or practice.”
- e. Plain Dealer, June 17, 2000, “Scholarship to encourage gay ministers” “The United Church of Christ yesterday established a \$500,000 scholarship fund to help homosexuals who want to enter the ministry.”

Conclusion: So much more could be said and God’s Word is so clear; however, many individuals and churches have basically throw away the Bible – *at least the parts they don’t like*. Such people are self-deceived! Nevertheless, let us more firmly cling to God, to His Word, and to Jesus Christ; then, for our benefit, let us follow the Bible in every way, confident that God will work to keep us in Christ and use us to shine the saving truth to others! *Amen!*

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