

Rooting Through Romans Pt 6 Romans 1:26-32, When God Gives You Up

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church, 11/22/2020

Romans 1:26-32†

† 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The last time we were in part 5 of our Romans study and we saw God's wrath upon unrighteousness. One of the things we read in verse 24 was that God also gave them up to uncleanness...Let's go ahead and read it again: **24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.**

That phrase; "God also gave them up." Is some of the scariest words in the Bible. To think that the very God of heaven, the One that loves the world so much that he gave his Only Begotten Son for, would actually give someone up. It's almost unthinkable to us but it is true. In our opening text in verse 26 we read it again: **26a For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections:..**

On down in verse 28 it says: **28b ...God gave them over to a reprobate mind,...**

This is not some "new" concept – this has been God's M.O. from the beginning.

Listen to what he said to the Children of Israel in **2 Chronicles 30:7** **And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.**

The Psalmist writes in **Psalms 81:11-12** **But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. 12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.**

We find in the Book of Acts, Stephen standing before the council preaching to them Christ and he said this: **Acts 7:41-42a** **And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. 42a Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven...**

May I say to you, the worst thing that could ever happen to you is if God gave you up. There is no coming back from that.

We know God is longsuffering, we read that in **2 Peter 3:9** **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-**

ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

David writes in **Psalms 86:15** **But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.**

It's true that God puts up with an awful lot from us but there comes a time when God's longsuffering ends. When God finally says "okay, if that's the way you want it then that's the way it will be," and he will give you up. That's what God did in the days of Noah. Listen to what Peter writes in **1 Peter 3:18-20** **For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.**

God was longsuffering toward the world and gave them over 100-years to repent and turn to him but they refused and finally God said "enough," and out of all the people on the earth only 8 were saved and he gave up all the rest of them.

What does he give people up to? Look at it in our opening text again in verses 26 and 27: **26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.**

God gave them up unto their "vile affections." God did not make them have vile affections; he gave them up to the vile affections they already had which was sexual perversion, homosexuality, depravity.

There are those that try to claim the New Testament doesn't say anything against Homosexuality, that verses like these are talking about idolatry – that's nothing but a bunch of garbage! Idolatry was certainly one of their sins but sexual depravity is clearly indicated here.

The world today legalizes human depravity, sexual perversion, sodomy... Did you know when Tennessee became a state in 1790 they had a law against the crime of "Buggery." Buggery is an old English word for Sodomy. It means having anal intercourse. Then in 1829 they adopted a new criminal code and included the word Sodomy and this was how the law read: **Whoever shall commit either of the infamous crimes against nature called sodomy and buggery shall undergo confinement in said Jail and Penitentiary house for a period of not less than five nor more than fifteen years.**

Did you know that law was in the books here in Tennessee until 1996 when it was ruled unconstitutional by the Tennessee Court of Appeals?

For 206 years that law held until a group of homosexuals go together and sued the state. You can read about it just Google: Campbell v. Sundquist (Don Sundquist was the Governor of Tennessee at the time) They argued that "**homosexual conduct is a normal and important aspect of the private sexual expression of gay men and lesbians, most of whom, like most heterosexuals, form long-lasting relationships in which sexuality is important**"

NORMAL??? Give me a break. It's as abnormal as you can get. It is so abnormal that God says it is a "vile affection" it is **not "natural"** in other words it goes against nature, and that is an "error," meaning wrong behavior.

It is so sick, so perverted, so twisted, so unnatural that God gave them up to it. People that are in that sin very rarely come out of it. I believe there are some that by God's grace and mercy are able to overcome it but the majority of them have been given up to it. There is no hope for them. That's one of the reasons homosexuals have the highest suicide rate of any other group. They become so depraved they cannot live with themselves and the only way out is to end it all.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

You see, they know what they are doing is wrong. They know it goes against God and his law. They know it goes against nature but they do not care. They do not even want to retain any knowledge of God because it only reminds them how sick they are. So they push God out of their mind and God says, you know what? I will give you over. **God gave them over to a reprobate mind...**

That word "reprobate" means: **empty, worthless, castaway, rejected – a mind that is void of consciousness, unable to discern between good and evil.** It is the lowest form of humanity. Once you have been given over to a reprobate mind, you are done for. There are no more chances.

...to do those things which are not convenient; that means that they will do things which are not fit, things which are vile, disgusting, wicked, evil, disgraceful and shameful things.

Then he gives a list of 23 of those things:

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

At first, I was going to list all 23 of these things and describe what each one means, but I decided against it. I think we understand by reading through that list of things that these are the worst crimes against nature, humanity, and God that you do.

This is not the only list in our New Testament of such despicable sins. Look over at **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

What do you think an "effeminate" is? It is a male that projects himself as a female. Some have said this was talking about male Temple prostitutes and it very well could mean that but what do you think that is? It is a homosexual.

That other phrase, **abusers of themselves with mankind**, that's indicating a sodomite. One that abuses himself with mankind. The same as in our opening text in Romans 1:27: **men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly**

There is another list given to us in the New Testament in **1 Timothy 1:9-11** Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless

and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Did you see that phrase: **them that defile themselves with mankind?** This again is referring to Sodomites.

So, the Bible speaks volumes about this wicked, perverted, lifestyle. We hear about this sin constantly here in the United States where it has been legalized and even held up to a higher status than normal heterosexuals. The sodomites have special privileges and laws to protect them.

But this sinful lifestyle isn't something new. If you look back on the history of World Empires you will find that every single one of them before they fell were openly acceptive of homosexuality. History tells us that 14 out of the first 15 Roman Emperors actively engaged in homosexual behavior. § There is a quote about Julius Caesar that says he was "Every woman's man and every man's woman." **

So, when Paul wrote Romans, he was well aware of the wicked lifestyles of the Greek and Roman culture around him. That is why after he gave that long list of perverted sins to the Church at Corinth, he followed it up with **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Some of those in the Church at Corinth before they got saved were indulged in those sins and lifestyles but Paul tells them now that they are saved, they are no longer that way. They had not been "given over" by God.

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

These perverted sins are not something to be taken lightly. According to God, the appropriate punishment for such wickedness is death. It says "they which commit such things are worthy of death."

That doesn't mean that we are to go around killing sodomites. It is not our place to punish them, God himself will do that.

But, on the same hand, it is not a sin that we are supposed to accept or be tolerate of and certainly not one to deem acceptable for the Church or Christians.

We are certainly to pray for those that are involved in this wickedness, that the Lord doesn't give them up but will continue to be longsuffering toward them.

We do not know what the new Presidential Administration is going to do. We believe it will not be good for Christians. I believe there are some in Washington D.C. that have already been "given over" and "given up" by God.

Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House has already submitted new rules to go in effect for the so-called "Gender Neutrality" speech. She states that the proposed would "honor all gender identities" by eliminating such specific terms as mother and father, son and daughter, and aunt and uncle. Instead, only gender-neutral terms such as "parent," "child," "sibling" and "parent's sibling" would be allowed in the text of the House rules. ††

2 Timothy 3:12-15 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Listen Church, we just have to keep on trusting the Lord. We may be fixing to go through some rough times as Christians but it will be over with soon. I believe the Lord will come back very soon and we will not have to worry about it anymore.

Meanwhile, just keep the faith.
Share the Gospel.
Apply the Word of God to your heart.
And keep on keeping on.

[†] All Scripture from Authorized King James Bible

[‡] Color Code: **Blue** = Main text, **Dark Orange** = Other Scripture, **Red** = Words of Christ, **Black** = Pastor Byron commentary

[§] Mounce, R. H. (1995). Vol. 27: Romans. The New American Commentary (82). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

[™] Roman historian, Gaius Seutonius Tranquillus: <https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Suetonius>
^{††} <https://nypost.com/2021/01/01/house-rules-may-be-stripped-of-all-gender-references/>