

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:28-32 The Gospel for a Godforsaken Society

The gospel comes as God's saving power to the God-forsaking society which has become a Godforsaken society.

1) The God-forsaking society becomes a Godforsaken society

- a) The God-forsaking Society (v. 28a)
 - i) Sinful Society Judges God—"did not see fit"
 - ii) Sinful Society Rejects God—"to have God in knowledge"
 - (1) Does not acknowledge truth about God
 - (2) Does not acknowledge authority of God
 - (3) Does not desire experience of God
- b) The Godforsaken Society (v. 28b)
 - i) God Hands Society over to an Unfit Mind
 - (1) Lex Talionis—Society abused the power of discernment to reject God, therefore God took away society's power of discernment.
 - (2) The result is that society does and approves what it once condemned (vv. 28b, 32).
 - (a) "What ought not to be done"—ordinary or customary moral sense
 - (b) "Though they know God's righteous decree"—knowledge of righteous God from creation and conscience
 - (3) The result is a society brimming over with vices (vv. 29-31)
 - (a) "filled with all . . . full of"—this is not simply total depravity, but societal degeneracy
 - (i) Pervasive evil character/intent: unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice (10th Commandment)
 - (ii) Inhumanity: envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness (6th commandment)
 - (iii) Injustice: gossips, slanderers (9th commandment)
 - (iv) Sacrilegious arrogance: haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil (1st Commandment)
 - (v) Rebellious: disobedient to parents
 - (vi) Unbelieving: foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless
 - c) **Application:** How similar is this Greco-Roman society to modern American society?

2) The gospel comes as God's saving power to this society.

- a) Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
- b) Romans 3:19-22 "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
 - ii) Are you unashamed of the gospel?

Doxology: "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10