

## PRIDE: A NATIONS' SHAME AND JUDGMENT

July 7, 2019

Psalm 2; Romans 1:18-32

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” Psalm 2:2, 3

Recent public celebrations of sexual perversion should be seen in the light that Scripture sheds upon them. Psalm 2 describes what is happening, and what the consequences will be. Romans 1 reveals the dynamic by which men, women and nations descend into the self-destructive behavior they celebrate.

Psalm 2 describes wicked persons as raging. They rage against God and against “His anointed,” which is Christ. Their rage has one objective: to cast off anything that restrains their wickedness. They say, “let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us” (v. 3). God is not threatened by their rage—He laughs at them, holding them in derision. He warns them, “I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh” (Proverbs 1:26). God will judge them in His own time: “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel” (Psalm 2:9). They will “perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little” (2:12).

They do not recognize the divine dynamic by which they gain enlarged liberty to sin. They revel in their expanded “freedom,” openly celebrating perversion. They disdain any who object to their lifestyle and celebration thereof. But they do not realize that their enlarged freedom is, in fact, a manifestation of God’s wrath upon them.

“Gay pride” celebrations enact the “script” of Romans 1. They are astonishing manifestations of the “the wrath of God [which] is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [down] the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). The sequence of this wrath unfolds in this way:

**1. “That which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them”** (Romans 1:19). God has shown them by creation (1:20). He has shown them by their own conscience: they “shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing them witness” (2:15). “Knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, [they] not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (1:32). “Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness” (Proverbs 30:20). The retort “I have done no wickedness” betrays her willful violation of conscience. Romans 1 reveals the same deeply known guilt. “Pride” celebrations are saying, “I have done no wickedness.”

**2. Knowing God’s truth, they refuse to acknowledge it**—they “hold [down] the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18). “When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (1:21). They “changed the truth of God into a lie, (i.e., they exchanged the truth for a lie) and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for

ever” (Romans 1:25). “They did not like to retain God in their knowledge” (1:28).

**3. God’s response:** “their foolish heart was darkened” (1:21). “God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves” (1:24). “God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature” (1:26). “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” (1:28).