

“When We Exchange the Truth For a Lie” (Part 1)

Romans 1:24-32 & John 15:5-11

- What does the Scripture mean when it says, “*God gave them up*”?
 - *When God abandons men to their own devices, His divine protection is partially withdrawn. When that occurs, men not only become more vulnerable to the destructive wiles of Satan but also suffer the destruction that their own sin works in and through them. God’s giving over of sinful mankind has a dual sense. First, in an indirect sense God gave them over simply by withdrawing His restraining and protective hand, allowing the consequences of sin to take their inevitable, destructive course. Sin degrades man, debases the image of God in which he is made, and strips him of dignity, peace of mind, and a clear conscience. Sin destroys personal relationships, marriages, families, cities, and nations. It also destroys churches. Second, God often allows men to go deeper and deeper into sin in order to drive them to despair and to show them their need for Him. Often He punishes men in order to heal and restore. (John MacArthur)*
- In 1:24, why did God give them up to dishonourable passions?
 - 1:18: They suppressed the truth with ungodliness and unrighteousness.
 - 1:21: They refused to honor God and thank God/submit to God and worship God.
 - 1:22: They rejected God’s truth and became fools.
 - 1:23: They glorified the creature instead of the Creator.
 - 1:25: The synopsis of the situation.
 - Therefore they were given to the *lusts of their hearts* and *the dishonoring of their bodies*....
 - They desired worldly comforts instead of holiness. They begin to trust their feelings and reject the truth (Matthew 15:18-20; Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 119:11; Psalm 86:11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The question is: “*What do you know, not how do you feel?*” (Alistair Begg)
- In 1:26 God gives them up into deeper darkness, *they are given to dishonourable passions*....
 - Human relationships have a design that worship and glorify God, or we can make human relationships about us and our sinful desires.
 - Our desires/preferences are supposed to submit to God’s design and God’s Word. Truth is not relative, it is absolute.
 - Whom we should worship and who we are sexually/relationally are not open to our desires/preferences. We should worship God and males should act like men and females should act like women.
 - Every person has relational and worship brokenness. This is not a reason to reject God’s design and His Word. Contentment and joy are found in self-denial (Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- What do God-glorifying relationships look like?
 - Marriage: A wife submitting to her husband as to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22-24). A husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church by self-denial striving for personal holiness and his wife’s holiness (Ephesians 5:25-33).
 - Parenting: A father governing in kindness (Ephesians 6:4). Parents instructing their children according to God’s Word (Deuteronomy 11:18-19). Parents providing for and disciplining their children (2 Corinthians 12:14; Proverbs 29:17).

Worship: Glorious Day (Casting Crowns) Your Love Oh Lord (Third Day) He Will Hold Me Fast (Norton Hall Band)
Closing Song: O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer (Sovereign Grace Music)

- Fellow believers: Encouraging one another (Hebrews 3:12-14). Suffering and rejoicing together (1 Corinthians 12:26). Helping mature, build-up, speak truth to, and protect one another (Ephesians 4:12-16).
- All people: Live in harmony with one another. Never think too much of yourself. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil. Do what is honourable. Never avenge yourselves. Love your enemies (Romans 12:14-21; Philippians 2:3-4).

Account Balance: \$40,150.20 April Balance: \$39,464	Weekly Budget: \$2,957
Actual Tithe: May 3	\$3,060
Actual Tithe: May 10	\$2,100
Actual Tithe: May 17	\$5,112
Actual Tithe: May 24	\$1,856
Actual Tithe: May 31	\$2,480