

10-09-16

Series: The Book of Romans

# Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(46)

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 10/02/16)

## B. God's Case Against All Ungodliness and Unrighteousness of Men: How God Shows Wrath, [Romans 1:24-32](#)

### 4. ([Romans 1:28-31](#)) God, Wrath of— Judgment— Sin: God—the only living and true God—shows wrath by giving men up to reprobate, depraved minds.

[Romans 1:28-31 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper,

<sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

<sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

<sup>31</sup> without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.”

## The Extent of Man's Sinfulness

[Romans 1:28-32 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> “And just as they **did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,**

<sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

<sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

<sup>31</sup> without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

<sup>32</sup> and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Because fallen mankind **did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over** in still another way, in this case **to a depraved mind**. The godless mind is a **depraved**

10-09-16

Series: [The Book of Romans](#)

mind, whose predetermined and inevitable disposition is **to do those things which are not proper**.

The basic meaning of *adokimos* (**depraved**) is that of not standing the test, and the term was commonly used of metals that were rejected by refiners because of impurities. The impure metals were discarded, and *adokimos* therefore came to include the ideas of worthlessness and uselessness. In relation to God, the rejecting mind becomes a rejected mind and thereby becomes spiritually depraved, worthless and useless. Of unbelievers, **Jeremiah** wrote, **“They call them rejected silver, because the Lord has rejected them”** ([Jeremiah 6:30 NASB](#)). The mind that finds God worthless becomes worthless itself. It is debauched, deceived, and deserving only of God's divine wrath.

The sinful, depraved mind says to God, **“...Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Your ways.”**<sup>15</sup> **“Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him, And what would we gain if we entreat Him?”** ([Job 21:14-15 NASB](#)). Although godless people think they are wise, they are supremely foolish. **“Professing to be wise, they became fools”** ([Romans 1:22 NASB](#))

Regardless of their natural intelligence and their learning in the physical realm, in the things of God they are devoid even of **“the beginning of knowledge,”** because they lack reverential fear of Him. They are merely **“fools [who] despise wisdom and instruction”** ([Proverbs 1:7](#); cf. [v 29](#)).

[Proverbs 1:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

[Proverbs 1:29 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> **“Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.”**

Even God's chosen people, the Jews, fell into that foolishness when they rejected or neglected the revelation and blessings He had showered on them so uniquely and abundantly. **“For My people are foolish, they know Me not,”** the Lord declared through Jeremiah; **“they are stupid children, and they have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, but to do good they do not know”** ([Jeremiah 4:22](#); cf. [Jeremiah 9:6](#)).

[Jeremiah 9:6 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> **“Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me,” declares the LORD.”**

Those who reject the true God are wholly vulnerable to **“...the god of this world [who] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”** ([2 Corinthians 4:4 NASB](#)).

The catalog of sins Paul proceeds to mention in [Romans 1:29-31](#) is not exhaustive, but it is representative of the virtually endless number of vices with which the natural man is filled.

10-09-16

Series: The Book of Romans

The first two terms in the NASB text, “**all unrighteousness**” and “**wickedness**”, are comprehensive and general, synonyms that encompass the entire range of the particular sins that follow. Some versions include *fornication* between those first two terms, but that word is not found in the best Greek manuscripts. The idea is certainly not inappropriate to the context, however, because fornication is universally condemned in Scripture and is frequently included by Paul in lists of vices (see [1 Corinthians 6:9](#); [Gal. 5:19](#); [Col. 3:5](#)). Fornication is implied in the sin of impurity, which has already been mentioned in the present passage ([Romans 1:24](#)).

The sins mentioned in the rest of the list are basically self-explanatory: **greed, evil; full of envy; murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful**. The Greek term behind **untrustworthy** means literally to break a covenant, as reflected in some translations. **Unloving** relates especially to unnatural family relationships, such as that of a parent who abandons a young child or a grown child who abandons his aging parents.

Reiterating the fact that rebellious, ungodly men are without excuse, Paul declares that they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death. The apostle has already established that, since the creation of the world, God has made Himself known to every human being ([Romans 1:19-21](#)).

People do not recognize God because they do not *want* to recognize Him, because they willingly “**suppress the truth in unrighteousness**” ([Romans 1:18](#)). “**This is the judgment,**” Jesus said, “**that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed**” ([John 3:19-20](#)).

Whether they recognize it or not, even those who have never been exposed to the revelation of God’s Word are instinctively aware of His existence and of His basic standards of righteousness. “**They show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them**” ([Romans 2:15](#)).

In most societies of the world, even in those considered uncivilized, most of the sins Paul lists here are considered wrong, and many are held to be crimes. Men inherently know that such things as **greed, envy; murder, deceit, arrogance, disobedience, and mercilessness** are wrong.

The absolute pit of wickedness is reached, Paul says, when those who are themselves involved in evils also give hearty approval to others who practice them. To justify one’s own sin is wicked enough, but to approve and encourage others to sin is immeasurably worse. Even the best of societies have had those within them who were blatantly wicked and perverse. But a society that openly condones and defends such evils as sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, and the rest has reached the deepest level of corruption.

10-09-16

Series: The Book of Romans

Many of the most socially advanced societies of our own day are in that category. Sexually promiscuous celebrities are glamorized and the rights of homosexuals are ardently defended. These acts of sin are in direct contradiction to the revealed will of God.

A certain species of ants in Africa builds its nests in deep subterranean tunnels, where its young and its queen live. Although they may be great distances from the nest foraging for food, worker ants of that species are able to sense when the queen is being molested and they become extremely nervous and uncoordinated. If she is killed, they become frantic and rush around aimlessly until they die.

What better illustration could there be of fallen man. Even in his sinful rejection and rebellion, he cannot function properly apart from God and is destined only for death.

## 5. (Romans 1:32) Judgment: God—the only living and true God—assures final judgment which is death, that is, eternal separation from God.

**Romans 1:32 (NASB)**

<sup>32</sup>“And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

There are **two reasons** why men will be judged and condemned to death.

1. Men will be judged because they sin and take pleasure in others who sin by doing the same things (Romans 1:29-32).

**Romans 1:29-32 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup>“Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are gossips,*  
<sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,  
<sup>31</sup> without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;  
<sup>32</sup> and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

Men have appetites, desires, and lusts, and they spend their lives seeking to fulfill them. The great tragedy is that they not only *take pleasure* in their own sins, but they *take pleasure* in the sins of others. They *approve and talk about* their selfishness and exploits and that of their friends.

**They focus their lives upon.....**

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| a. extravagant living | e. position             |
| b. stylish dress      | f. fame                 |
| c. wealth             | g. material possessions |
| d. power              | h. sexual affairs       |

10-09-16

Series: The Book of Romans

As a result of such selfishness, the sins listed in the Scripture tear at the world and destroy human life ([Romans 1:29-31](#)); therefore, the judgment of God is assured. Those who commit such things and *take pleasure* in the sins of others shall die, that is, be separated from God eternally.

[Romans 1:32 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>32</sup>“And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

[Isaiah 5:20 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>20</sup>“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

[Ezekiel 13:22 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>22</sup>“Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way *and* preserve his life.”

[Malachi 2:17 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>17</sup>“You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied *Him*?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

2. Men will be judged because they are without excuse: they know through an inner sense that the judgment of God is coming upon the world. Men sense that some higher power (**God**) is going to straighten out the mess in the world: that injustices and inequities will be brought to judgment, condemned and punished.

[Romans 6:23 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>23</sup>“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

[Romans 8:6 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>6</sup>“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”

[Hebrews 9:27 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>27</sup>“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

[James 1:15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>15</sup>“Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

[Revelation 21:8 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>8</sup>“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

[Proverbs 11:19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup>“He who is steadfast in righteousness *will attain* to life, And he who pursues evil will bring about his own death.”

**10-09-16**

**Series: The Book of Romans**

**Ezekiel 18:4 (NASB)**

**<sup>4</sup>“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.”**