

5. Depraved life out of depraved mind

April 27, 2008

Last Sunday I opened our study with the comments from non-believers who think that the Bible is no longer relevant to our modern days. But when I read the Book of Romans, I think what they said is nothing more than their excuses not to believe what God speaks through the Bible. I know I am right.

V26-32 of chapter 1 of this Book reminds me any day of the evening newspaper or 10 o'clock news that is filled with bad news in our communities – Sahuarita, Green Valley and Tucson – and across America:

- Gas prices going up again because of the greed of the Arab oil producers' and American oil companies' executives
- Another cold blood murder in Tucson and Pima County
- Booming business in drug and human trafficking across the border
- Recent con-artists' scams against elderly people
- Organized crimes in casino gambling, prostitution and drug dealing
- Ever increasing identity thefts
- Home invasions by drug gangs and their turf wars
- Same sex marriage one step closer to reality

Though the Bible does not mention about the latest technologies and the brand names clothing of the latest fashion, it certainly talks about human mentality and results by human's wicked mindset.

These final portions of Romans chapter 1 should remove any doubt about whether homosexuality is a sin and that it violates God's design for sexual intimacy or not. However, homosexuality isn't the only sin Paul lists as evidence of human depravity. Everyone who gossips, deceives, even fails to love, is guilty before the Lord. In other words, every one of us is a sinner.

While we are standing knee-deep in all this sin, that sin doesn't have the last word. Jesus Christ's Gospel that is filled with His grace, mercy and love does.

A. GOD GAVE THEM UP

Romans 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Homosexuality is not a disease, nor heritage. It is nothing more than downright perversion. It is a sin of perversive lust. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Yes, God is a loving God. Homosexual people claim that they were born in that way and made by this loving God. But they ignore the fact that the Bible stands absolutely against homosexuality. If what they say is true – God made them to be homosexual, then why would the same God condemn homosexuality from the Bible? That would be a contradiction to His Word and God wouldn't do that.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

When God created humans, He created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, nor Amy and Eve. Homosexuality is vile, unnatural and against the way God intended.

Liberal Bible scholars and some homosexuals who claim to be Christians insist that Jesus had never mentioned anything against homosexuality. Think again. He used strong words against any type of sexual immorality which is "porneia" in Greek – pre-marital sex, pornography, adultery, homosexuality and bestiality, any type of sex outside of marriage.

By the way, it is a proven fact that pornography is a gateway to many other sexual perversion, such as homosexuality, child molestation, polygamy and bestiality.

Prime-time sitcoms, popular celebrities, politicians and even some liberal churches elevate lesbianism and male homosexuality to a legitimate lifestyle – every bit as natural as heterosexual intimacy. Wrong, a thousand times wrong!

In our last study, we've learned that because people insist to continue their sins, God allows them to get the full measure of the consequences of their own sin. Homosexuality is a good example of it. God revealed His wrath, not by sending fire from heaven, but by abandoning sinful men to their lustful ways and its consequences.

B. THE EPIDEMIC RESULT OF HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE

In spite of the homosexual community's argument, homosexual practice truly is an abomination in our present culture.

Homosexual advocates have an interest in saying homosexuals are exactly like everyone else, except they love people of their own sex. But when the conduct of homosexuals is observed, this is not the case.

We can bring out statistics on the number of partners homosexuals have:

- 43% of homosexuals say they have had 500 or more sexual partners in their lifetime.
- Only 1% of homosexuals say they have had four or less sexual partners in their lifetime.
- According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 77% of homosexuals say they have met sexual partners in a city park, 62% in a homosexual bar, 61% in a theater, 31% in a public restroom. Only 28% of homosexuals said they had known their partners for at least a week before participating in homosexual sex.

By the way, you can no longer find this kind of data that damages homosexual propaganda in the government web site.

Homosexuals are actively recruiting young people who are full of hormone from high schools and universities around the country into their perverse lifestyle. Because the older generation homosexuals are dying with their sexual diseases and AIDS.

The average age of a homosexual man dying with AIDS is 39. The average age of gays dying of all other causes is 41. The average heterosexual married man lives 75 years. Gay men are three times more likely to have alcohol or drug abuse problems. Homosexuals are 14 times more likely to have had syphilis, and 23 times more likely to contract venereal diseases.

Homosexuals have insisted that up to 10% of the population of America is homosexual. But the most reliable statistics show only 2.3% of men in their 20's and 30's report ever having had a homosexual experience. Only 1.1% reported being exclusively homosexual. Yes, that small group makes so much noise that many people think that many more people are homosexuals. Not true.

Homosexuals also have an interest in defining themselves as "gay," a word that used to mean "happy" or "carefree." But it is a poor description of a lifestyle that has such a high rate of death, disease, depression, illegal drug use and suicide.

Homosexual lobbyists are so effective in our federal and state legislation that they were able to gag medical doctors from informing the family members of AIDS patients that the patient has AIDS virus. For an example, let's say I am a family physician – Dr. Joonho Kim, M.D. One of my patients is a young man named Charlie. He and my niece Denise who works for me in my clinic fell in love and planned to get married in about a month.

Charlie came in for his annual check up. When I received the test result of Charlie, I found out that he is AIDS positive. But by law I cannot even tell my own niece Denise that her bridegroom to be is an AIDS patient and she is going to get infected with that disease as well as their future children. This is the reality in America because of the strong militant homosexual community which also is against Christianity. It is because the doctrines of Christianity reveals the darkness of homosexuality like no other.

Children's Hospital Boston is now offering sex-change therapy to patients as young as ten years old – making transgendered children. Don't you think this hospital and doctors who are involved in this process are somehow influenced by homosexual groups?

C. IT IS HORRIBLE, BUT NOT UNFORGIVABLE

The Bible is clear in its pronouncement of homosexuality as sin. But it's not the only sin. Nor is it an unforgivable sin. And heterosexual sinners are no more righteous in God's sight than homosexual sinners. But homosexual behavior is sin, nonetheless.

Some homosexuals have no desire to change. Others, though, may want to, but the drive is so strong that they believe it's useless to try. That's why acknowledging homosexuality as sin is the first step to change. Since it is a sin, it is something that can be forgiven in Christ. It is a sin He died for. And it is a condition from which He can set people free. That doesn't mean that giving up the homosexual lifestyle will be easy – any easier than a heterosexual giving up a sexual addiction. But it does mean that giving it up is possible.

You can get a lot of information and help through Focus on the Family in dealing with a family member who is a homosexual from their web site at www.family.org or call them at 800-A-FAMILY.

D. GIVEN OVER TO A DEBASED MIND

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

People not only reject God in their actions, but also in their thinking. Humans sit themselves in the judgment seat on God to decide whether He fits the qualifications of a God of their choice. If He doesn't meet their qualifications, they dismiss Him from their lives. In the replacement of God, they would place something or someone to worship.

So, as judgment, God "gave them over" to the very condition He abhorred – a depraved, corrupt, perverted mind; a mind set on anything and everything but the holy and righteous Lord. He allowed their rejection of Him to run its course. Depraved life out of depraved mind: "things which are not fitting."

A good example can be found in Genesis 19. When the men of Sodom demanded the two visitors of Lot's house to be brought to them so that they could rape these men who were in reality God's angels, the angels struck all of them with blindness. Rather than looking for cure to heal their blindness, they were weary trying to find the door of Lot's house. They could care less about their own blindness, but their perverse lust drove them to find the door to get their next victims. That is how human depravity drives people's minds.

E. THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF SIN

Romans 1:29-32 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Here we have a list of 24 sins. Of course, this is not a complete list of human sins. We can find more in Galatians 5, Colossians 3, Jude and I am sure that we list far more that are not mentioned here.

Paul's purpose is not to list every conceivable sin that humans commit, but to show that those who have rejected God display all manner of sinfulness.

Notice that these sins range from what we would call small or common sins – gossip, boastfulness, disobedience to parents – to heinous crimes – murder. This not only tells us the many forms sin takes, but it also reminds us that all sin is sin. Anything that violates God's standards of perfect obedience puts us in the path of His judgment.

It's not only a sin to murder someone, it's a sin to fail to love God or our neighbor as God wants us to love.

Earlier, we addressed the topic of homosexuality. It is sin without a doubt. But what if we fail to extend mercy to a homosexual dying of AIDS or the family members who were infected innocently because of the homosexual husband or wife and parents? Do you think that we're more righteous just because we're heterosexual? Being "unmerciful" and "arrogant" are sins too.

None of us gets off the hook. We all fall somewhere along the wide spectrum of sinfulness. We sin by doing things we shouldn't which we call 'Sin of commission' and by not doing things we should that is 'sin of omission'. We sin against God. We sin

against our neighbors, who are created in His image. We sin in our thoughts, desires, emotions, speech and actions. We even sin by approving the wrong that others do.

Without Christ and the righteousness He gives us through faith, we could never stand before God. We could never live lives that please Him. We would be forever lost in our sin. And that's what salvation through Jesus Christ is all about.

Romans 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

When we believe in Jesus Christ, His righteousness covers all our sins. We escape eternal death, which is God's due punishment for sin. And we step out of sin's death grip into the Lord's loving hands.

F. APPLICATIONS

- 1) No matter what the society and politically correct people want to argue, homosexuality is a sin in God's eyes. And the ones who practice to the end will receive His wrath.
- 2) We must extend the love of Christ to those who are involved in homosexuality without compromising the standard that is set by the Lord.
- 3) We should not think that our own sins are less than others. Sin is sin. We should hate it, because our God hates it.