

When a Society Shuns God (Romans 1:18-32 Summary)

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Our present society in America is persistently ignoring, avoiding, rejecting, and shunning God. His morals and ways are no longer embraced by many Americans today as atheism continues to grab hold of American government, schools, and the vast majority of the public domain. In this study, I want to address the subject of “When a Society Shuns God.” Romans chapter one gives us the sinful digression, degradation, and moral deterioration of a society and civilization that is deluded by heathenism and atheism (shutting God out of one’s mind). The way of fallen mankind is always downward, never upward. This chapter explains the downward trends of a society that rejects God and His moral authority. The heathen in this case would refer to all the Gentile people in Paul’s day (a non-Jewish world), whether civilized and cultured, or backward and ignorant savages.

Their pagan digression can be summarized as follows: personal knowledge about God, purposely rejecting God through human reasoning, progression into darkness and blindness, perverted worship and passions, and the penetrating judgment by God.

“God’s will is no concern of this congress” (Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021)



Jerold Nadler, a member of the Democratic party recently said: “God’s will is no concern of this congress.” This sums up the direction that America is headed. It is the mindset and attitude of many today within this country. They want to kick God out of everything, including the government, schools, colleges, workplaces, and their own thoughts and daily lives. This is what Romans

chapter one addresses. It reveals the attitudes and actions of those within a pagan society that want to promote atheism instead of acknowledging God as the moral Lawgiver.

When D.L. Moody was conducting evangelistic meetings, he frequently faced hecklers who were in violent disagreement with him. In the final service of one campaign, an usher handed the famous preacher a note as he entered the auditorium. It was actually from an atheist who had been giving Mr. Moody a great deal of trouble. The evangelist, however, thought that it was an announcement, so he quieted the large audience and prepared to read it. Opening the folded piece of paper he found scrawled in large print only one word: "Fool!" The colorful preacher was equal to the occasion.

Said Moody, "I have just been handed a memo which contains the single word – 'Fool'. This is most unusual. I've often heard of those who have written letters and forgotten to sign their names, but this is the first time I've ever heard of anyone who signed his name and then forgot to write the letter!" Taking advantage of the unique situation, Moody promptly changed his sermon text to Psalm 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God!" Today the communistic atheists of our society deny God's existence but in doing so they are blind fools leading other blind fools and in the end they both fall into the ditch (Luke 6:39).

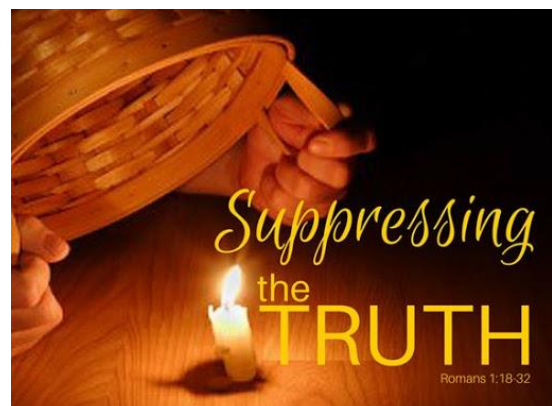
The Bible describes how a people and society degenerate into an atheistic, heathenistic, hedonistic, and communistic society that is godless and one that loses its moral compass. Romans chapter one might be viewed as the steps in man's degradation which results in a societal shunning of God. Anyone reading Romans one recognizes that today's moral climate is no different from that in the first century during the original Gospel outreach to the Gentiles. I will give some running commentary and a general summary on these verses to give us the general idea of what Paul is teaching here.

How does a society shun God?

1. It begins with suppression of truth.

Romans 1:18-19

"For the wrath of God (in contrast to God's righteousness imputed to sinners, as stated in verse 17, His wrath or righteous retribution is also being revealed in the world, as outlined in verse 27, but in a lesser degree, as God's temporal punishments of wrath are meted



out upon the unsaved in this life, which in the case of homosexuals involves God abandoning them to their sinful choices, resulting in the loss of their sexual identity and creative design, as outlined in verses 26-28) is revealed (present tense - being revealed in the sphere of human life today) from heaven (where God sits on His throne and runs the universe – Ps. 103:19) against all ungodliness (failure to be God-conscious and like God, disregard for God, lack of reverence and devotion toward God, acting like He does not exist) and unrighteousness (wrongdoing – the result of ungodliness) of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness (willfully rejecting and ignoring the testimony of creation and their conscience, they hold down, restrain, and suppress the truth as they keep busy in wicked deeds, therefore concealing the truth regarding God’s existence, creation, and morals, which was placed within the realm of their conscience at conception); Because (the reason why God’s wrath is directed toward these heathen people) that which may be known of God (apart from special revelation – the Scriptures) is manifest (the God-given evidence of His existence, nature, and morals is open, plain and evident) in them (inwardly - intuitively or innately, God has impressed His original and only blueprint upon the consciences of all human beings, that there is one true God and Creator, who is the Lawgiver and who has a universal moral code that must be followed by the human race); for God hath shewed it unto them (outwardly - the creation of the world is adequate visual testimony to the existence and power of the divine Creator, the creation is a visible disclosure of the invisible God, which is next explained in verses 20-21).

William Newell states this about the expression of God’s wrath in Romans 1:18: “However, in the thrice-repeated ‘God gave them over’ of verses 24, 26 and 28, there is to be seen the character, the beginning, and the working of God’s wrath in this world, in His judicial handing over of rebels to go further into rebellion.”

It seems that God’s wrath is not only a future reality (Rom. 2:5) but also a present revelation and reality in the world today (Rev. 1:18). This is because God is judging heathen people by turning them over to their utter vileness and wickedness. In abandoning the true God, He in return abandons them to their sinful passions. Because of their obstinate denial of God’s existence, creation and morals, they digress into perverted passions and God confirms them in their choice to live without His light or illumination in the utter darkness of heathenism and wickedness.

Ray Pritchard has the following note on the forgotten doctrine of God's wrath declaring that... "It is truly a forgotten doctrine, even in the evangelical church. I'll dare say that many of you have never heard a sermon on God's wrath—that is, not a full sermon devoted to this one topic. The reasons for this apparent neglect are not hard to find. Most of us would rather hear about love and grace. I know I would rather preach about God's grace. After all, to speak of the wrath of God makes us appear narrow-minded, judgmental, and God help us, fundamentalist... God's wrath is difficult to comprehend, so in some ways, this is a doctrine that is easy to overlook. The thought that nice people we know might someday go to eternal hell is so overwhelming—and so disheartening—that we'd much rather not think about it at all."

What we see happening in America with the acceptance of homosexuality is nothing short of the wrath of God being revealed from Heaven – God in His wrath giving people over to their immoral vices and allowing them to live in darkness! You cannot read Romans 1 without coming face to face with the wrath of God.

Romans 1:20

"For the invisible things of him (*referring to God's invisible spiritual attributes of divine wisdom and power, His nature, being, and existence in the spiritual realm as the only true God – John 4:24*) **from the creation of the world** (*the doctrine of creationism as taught in Genesis 1*) **are clearly seen** (*surveyed and under observation – Psalm 19:1-3*), **being understood** (*through natural revelation or creation, God's spiritual nature, existence, and power can be perceived and understood by intelligent beings*) **by the things that are made** (*natural creation and intelligent design reveals that there is a Creator God, through which everything exists, and that we are responsible to Him as His created beings*), **even his eternal power** (*omnipotence*) **and Godhead** (*the eternally existent God as the only true divinity or deity is the power behind all creation and everything that exists – Col. 2:9*); **so that they are without excuse**" (*ignorance is indefensible in the case of heathen people because no person living anywhere on earth can claim ignorance about God, since His invisible existence is confirmed within their conscience and without through the visible creation, resulting in all people everywhere possessing enough divine truth that is both within and around them so they can conclude: "though he be not far from every one of us" – Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31*).

"In the stars His handiwork I see,
On the wind He speaks with majesty!"



As Psalm 19:2-3 declares, “Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge (*the infinite knowledge of a Designer and Creator*). There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.” There is a silent symphony being replayed over and over again on earth and in the heavens and the music is ringing loud and clear, “God is the Creator of everything.” The sky, sun, and stars

never get tired of declaring about the Divine Designer who is God.

“Who made the mountains? Who made the trees?
Who made the rivers flow to the sea?
And who sends the rain when the earth is dry?
Somebody bigger than you and I.
Who made the flowers to bloom in the Spring?
Who made the song for the robins to sing?
And who hung the moon and the stars in the sky?
Somebody bigger than you and I.”

That Somebody is God! This means the heathen have the light of creation to teach them they are morally accountable to a true and living God, who is Creator of all things.

I agree with John MacArthur’s observation:

“Even in the most ancient of times, long before the telescope and microscope were invented, the greatness of God was evident both in the vastness and in the tiny intricacies of nature. Men could look at the stars and discover the fixed order of their orbits. They could observe a small seed reproduce itself into a giant tree, exactly like the one from which it came. They could see the marvelous cycles of the seasons, the rain, and the snow. They witnessed the marvel of human birth and the glory of the sunrise and sunset.”

Theologian Augustus Strong wrote:

“The Scriptures ... both assume and declare that the knowledge that God is, is universal (Rom. 1:19–21, 28, 32; 2:15). God has inlaid the evidence of [that]

fundamental truth in the very nature of man, so that nowhere is He without a witness.”

A disease left Helen Keller as a very young girl without sight, hearing, and speech. Through Anne Sullivan’s tireless and self-less efforts, Helen finally learned to communicate through touch and even learned to talk. When Miss Sullivan first tried to tell Helen about God, the girl’s response was that she already knew about Him - just didn’t know His name!

Although heathen people can only know the Gospel and be saved through written revelation (Rom. 10:17), in one sense, they have another Bible (natural creation). Therefore, they are without excuse when it comes to the illumination given to them regarding God’s existence as the Creator and their moral Lawgiver.

Dr. Roy Laurin puts it like this:

“They are inexcusable in their science as in their paganism. They are inexcusable in America as in Africa. The inclusive verdict is that they are without excuse. The answer is here in effect – that all men have another Bible. It is bound with the covers of the day and the night. It has pages of atmosphere. Its print is the stars, plants, trees, flowers, animals, and man. The verdict is that the man without a Bible is without excuse.”

Although creation is never an alternative to salvation through Christ (John 14:6), natural creation gives everyone common illumination or revelation that God exists, and that man is accountable to this Creator. God makes His existence and basic moral laws known to the human race through their inner conscience and creation.

John Stott observes:

“Anthropologists have also found a worldwide moral sense in human beings so that, although conscience is of course to some extent conditioned by culture, it still testifies to everybody everywhere both that there is a difference between right and wrong, and that evil deserves to be punished.”

The Bible teaches that God’s existence is stamped on the heavens and also in the hearts of men. All men have evidence of God, and what their physical senses can perceive of Him through outward creation, their inner sense can understand about Him. But sadly, the truth about God’s existence and His basic moral code can be

suppressed and no longer retained in one's conscience and thinking. As a result, society begins to plummet into atheism (rejecting the true God), polytheism (accepting false gods), and various acts of paganism, such as deviant sexual acts which defy God's moral code and societal norms. This will be seen in our next points that reveal the downward steps of a society that shuns God.

All creation is an outstretched finger pointing toward God!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote:

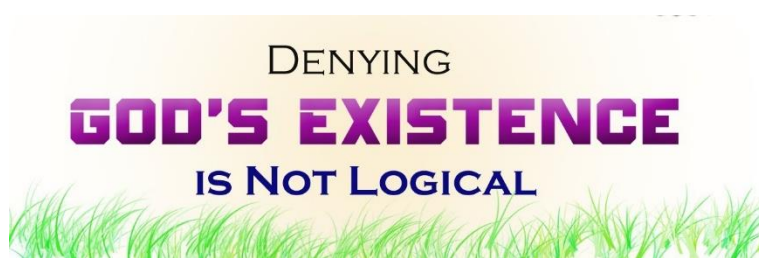
“Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush aflame with God.
But only those who see take off their shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.”

2. It moves to denial of God and darkness.

2 Timothy 3:13

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

The natural tendency of unregenerate mankind is to proceed from bad to worse! This is clearly seen in a society that shuns God. When choosing to suppress the truth about creation, God, and morals, this results in the actual denial of God's existence.



Romans 1:21

“**Because that, when they** (the Gentile heathen who continue to repeat the cycle of apostasy) **knew God** (intuitively, instinctively, or

innately in the realm of their conscience – Rom. 2:12-15 - man begins his life with knowledge of God's being and character, not with ignorance of Him), they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful (in deliberately refusing to acknowledge God's existence, they possessed no gratitude toward God, they did not extend honor toward God, they did not exalt and recognize Him as supremely worthy of honor, as the only true God that created everything - including themselves - 2 Tim. 3:2; Acts 17:25); but became (through a gradual process of suppressing and leaving the

*truth, reminding us that perversion is a preference and an intellectual revolt against God) **vain** (empty, worthless) **in their imaginations** (in rejecting natural revelation, they replace truth with their own speculative and perverted reasonings, arguments, disputes, thoughts, opinions, and theories related to man's origin, purpose, and destiny that are against God - His existence, creation, and His morals), **and their foolish heart was darkened** (as part of the judgment of God, their darkness became even darker when they became blind to spiritual realities regarding God as the Creator and His moral code and ethics that were placed within them at birth, resulting in the denial of God's existence - Eph. 4:18, "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart").*

Kenneth Wuest observed:

"As sin begets sin, and darkness of mind, deeper darkness, grace gives place to judgment, and the divine wrath hardens men, and hurries them on to more fearful degrees of depravity."

Theology is a knowledge of God and this is what men can ultimately reject! A certain evolutionist said, "I refuse to believe in God, so what other alternative do I have but evolution?" At least the man was honest, but he gave clear testimony to the fact that it was not the evidence of evolution that led him to disbelief in God but rather his disbelief in God that led him to embrace evolution. Denying God's existence is not logical. How can everything come out of nothing? And yet, Bill Nye, one of the leading evolutionists in America, was once asked if he feared God. His answer: "Not nearly as much as I am scared of the Japanese Giant Hornet, which is bigger than your thumb, can fly at 25mph and has the added advantage of actually existing." This answer shows how atheists deliberately put God out of their minds, so they don't have to follow His moral code, His plan of salvation, or face Him in judgment. Of course, the Bible assures us of their future judgment (Heb. 9:27; 2 Pet. 2:3).

Again, when choosing to suppress the truth about creation and God this results in the actual denial of the true existence of God (atheism) and moves into greater darkness (blindness) for the Bible states that "their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:21). In other words, they refused light and instead loved darkness (John 3:19) and consequently God gave them over to the power of darkness. This in part explains Romans 1:18 when it states how "the wrath of God is being revealed from

heaven." In Romans 1:18-28, we discover that God revealed His wrath, not by sending fire down from Heaven, but in abandoning sinful men to his own vain imaginations and lustful ways, increasing man's darkness (blindness) as it relates to the existence of God and His moral code and a darkness that is reflected in man's idolatrous practices and lustful passions of homosexuality. How great is the darkness!

God's response to this worldwide "disloyalty and treason" against Him and His universal moral code is not, first, to send us to hell, but to see that we sink into the swamp of our own making. God, in an act of judgment ("wrath" in verse 18) withdraws His common restraints on their rebellion and gives them over to sink in the swamp they have chosen. These verses teach that suppression of truth results in denial of the truth and then darkness. Here, a human society begins to deny God's very existence by suppressing the truth that He is the Creator and Moral Giver. They strip away His glory as God the Creator of all things and become unthankful or ungrateful to God for creating them. Instead of being thankful, they became blinded in their own "vain imaginations" which would include the debunked philosophies they conjure up in their own minds about God, the origin of the universe, morals, and human existence.

In other words, heathen people have the witness of *nature* and the witness of their own *conscience*. However, the heathen within a given society have deliberately suppressed these witnesses to the truth and have consistently opted for a lie in place of the truth. In suppressing the way of truth, they follow the deception of darkness and become alienated in their minds from the truth ("alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works" – Col. 1:21). When man rejects the truth, the darkness of spiritual falsehood replaces it (John 3:19-20, 2 Tim. 4:3,4, 2 Tim. 3:13). In the case of heathenism, the light that God had given men in nature becomes darkness in them.

The next downward trend of a society that shuns God is their heathen replacement of God. History repeats itself but so do the sinful inclinations of man without God. Romans chapter one is speaking about *quacks* or fools (vv. 21-22), *queers* (vv. 26-27) and men *questioning* God (His existence as the true God and moral giver). When you put God out of your mind – you can end up anywhere and doing anything! To reject God is to reject the greatest reality in the universe, the reality which gives the only true meaning, purpose, and understanding to everything else!

After rejecting the true God, man must fill the God-vacuum with other gods – the gods related to idolatry (idols of men and animals) which today are reflected in the gods of humanism and evolutionary myth – man is the measure of all things and stems from ancestral animals.

3. It creates other gods.

Romans 1:22-23

“Professing themselves to be wise (the pseudo wisdom of men without God, as in 1 Cor. 2:5, and ‘the world by wisdom knew not God’ as in 1 Cor. 1:21), **they became fools** (departing into mental and moral folly they become morons who deny that



God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Lawgiver of the universe – Ps. 14:1; 53:1 – and because their own speculations can’t replace the revelation they reject), **And changed** (exchanged – substituted false gods for the true God) **the glory of the uncorruptible God** (the imperishable and eternal Creator God who sits upon His heavenly throne radiating His resplendent glory – Heb. 1:3) **into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things”** (into that which is perishable, inglorious, and shameful - the perverted concepts of God promoted through idolatry – the dumb idols of false gods, which indicate man’s regression through rationalization and false religion – 1 Cor. 12:2; Psalm 115:4-8).

John in the book of Revelation makes it clear that man's propensity toward idolatry will persist until the very end of the Tribulation Period (Revelation 9). The Bible teaches that a person is an absolute fool when they engage in idolatrous worship.

Dr. R. A. Torrey used to read Romans 1:22 this way:

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became philosophers? No, Foolosophers."

For a modern example of men professing to be wise but really being fools, one can read the September 1976 National Geographic article entitled "The Awesome Worlds Within a Cell." On page 358 the authors describe the utter complexity of the cell. There is no such thing as a "simple one-celled organism!" Even the simplest

cell has turned out to be "a micro-universe" (p.358). Then on p.388 we read, "...this really is the major problem of biology. How did this complexity arise?...biologists still confront the deep, basic mystery of science: How did it all begin?" Then on page 390 the "experts" answer this by crediting it all to CHANCE and saying that given enough time even the IMPOSSIBLE can happen! With time, chance and evolution all things are possible!" What does the Bible say about their vain imaginations or speculations? "They became as fools" (Rom. 1:22).

Fools! In the midst of the period of intellectual history called The "Enlightenment" the "age of reason" gave birth in fact to the "age of fools!" Voltaire, true to the spirit of skepticism, said "Now look at the mighty mind of Newton, who discovered gravitation; when he began to study the Book called the Bible, it seems in order to credit its fabulous nonsense, he believed that the knowledge of mankind will be so increased that we shall be able to travel fifty miles an hour! The poor dotard!"

The greatest fool in all the world is the person who exchanges God's revealed truth, wisdom, and light for man's wisdom of deceit and darkness (Heb. 3:13). This deceit is evident in that we find people are inherently worshippers, even in their fallen state, and they must fill the void that is left behind after abandoning God by creating deities of their own making. Hindus have 330 million gods! Millions of Buddhists revere a tooth said to have belonged to Buddha!

J. H. Clinch wrote these powerful lines:

"And still from Him we turn away,
And fill our hearts with worthless things;
The fires of greed melt the clay,
And forth the idol springs!
Ambition's flame, and passion's heat,
By wondrous alchemy transmute earth's dross
To raise some gilded brute to fill Jehovah's seat."

The other gods that replace the true God are idolatrous idols represented in man and animal forms. The idols of men are an attempt to deify humans and make human beings the center of worship (a form of self-worship). This basically reflects the present-day philosophy of humanism which concludes that man is the center of all things. The fact that many gods consisted of animals is a reflection of what is

so prevalent in our society and world today – the belief system of evolution (the worship of animals as man’s ancestors and originators). So, the idols of men and animals is really nothing different than what is occurring today - the worship of man and animals though the evolutionary myth. Though not visible, evolution has made invisible idols out of man and animals by making man the center of all things through his evolutionary development from ancestral animals.

Evolution is essentially the worship of man and animals since both are interrelated. Evolution is a spin off philosophy rooted in the worship of false deities which took on the form of animals. Evolution has always been the god of atheism and communism. This is because evolution denies the existence of God and morals and allows the attention and devotion of a society to be diverted from the true God and His ethical laws to the laws of a godless government. They are diabolical laws and unethical practices which defy God the Creator and moral Lawgiver. Evolution with its missing links is a debunked philosophy.

Scientist Anthony Standen, commenting on the phrase “missing link” in “Science is a Sacred Cow,” remarked: “It is a most misleading phrase because it suggests that only one link is missing. It would be more accurate to say that the greater part of the chain is missing, so much that it is not entirely certain whether there is a chain at all.”

Lewis Stanton said:

“I cannot make peace with the randomness doctrine; I cannot abide the notion of purposelessness and blind chance in nature. And yet I do not know what to put in its place for the quieting of my mind. It is absurd to say that a place like this is absurd, when it contains, in front of our eyes, so many billions of different forms of life, each one in its way absolutely perfect, all linked together to form what would surely seem to an outsider a huge, spherical organism.

“We talk—some of us, anyway—about the absurdity of the human situation, but we do this because we do not know how we fit in, or what we are for. The stories we used to make up to explain ourselves do not make sense anymore, and we have run out of new stories, for the moment” (Lewis Thomas in Harvard Magazine, quoted in June, 1981 His Magazine, p. 9).

Did the universe and everything in it (including yourself) emerge from a single particle of matter (a dot) that was very small? This is one of the present theories being promoted today among God-defying evolutionists? Or did everything originate from a Creator who was infinitely intelligent and powerful? The stupidity of evolution, occurring by chance or emerging from the singularity of one dot, is mocked in this funny poem.



“My name is Bob, I came from a blob, of chemicals mixed just so,
Or was it a dot, compressed a lot? I don’t think we’ll ever know.
Time gave me a body, It’s not too shoddy, two arms, two legs and a chest.
Time gave me a head, two lips that are red, And two eyes that are nicely recessed.
Chance gave me a nose, with two little holes, two ears that shift when I smile.
Chance gave me a voice, a throat that is moist,
And some hair I can comb and style.
Luck gave me a rump, to sit on a stump, or anything hard with some ease.
Luck gave me a waist, a tongue that can taste
And a neck that turns when I sneeze.
Did I mention my brain? And all of my veins, and my heart that beats on its own?
Did I mention my skin, my lungs and my chin,
And my frame that is made of hard bone?
I credit mutation for my creation, fate and good fortune helped too.
My tail is now gone, a new day has dawned,
It’s good to get out of the zoo!”

Ray Stedman was right when he said:
“The easiest thing in the universe to believe is that God is there. You must work hard at convincing yourself that he’s not there, and it seems only the highly educated are able to do it. The rest, who simply see facts and believe them, readily accept that God is there.”

4. It ends in the breakdown of societal ethics and norms.



Romans 1:24

“Wherefore (because they did not acknowledge God’s existence, giving honor and thanks to Him at the only true God, but instead became polytheistic idolaters) **God also gave them up** (as restated in verses 26 and 28, God does not give up on people but people give up on God, which results in God giving people over to their sinful choices, and in doing so, He puts into effect His divine permission for people to live in their sinful degradations, executing His judgment upon them by withdrawing the light of reason and conscience from them regarding His own existence and morals, causing them to suffer the full physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional effects of what they are doing) **to uncleanness** (moral impurity and defilement) **through the lusts of their own hearts** (God gives people over to their degrading acts of sin which are generated from the evil passions of their own hearts – Mark 15:19-20; Jer. 17:9; 2 Tim. 4:3; James 1:14), **to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:** (to bring shame, dishonor, and disgrace upon their bodies and diminish the human dignity of their bodies through debased sex, indicating that the perverted acts of homosexuality that are explained in verses 26-27 flow out of the idolatry of verses 22-23 – idolatry leads to immoral practices - the fruit of idolatry is immorality - a false image of God leads to a false understanding of sex which is debased, disgraced, and degraded from God’s moral perspective).

There is a conspiracy of silence about God in our world today as heathen seek to override the existence and morals of God. This is becoming increasingly true in America. No more Christmas carols or Bibles in the public school, no more manger scenes, no more prayers to God or mention of God in government. There are many ways God is being silenced in the secularized and progressive world of today. But there are consequences to pay for silencing and shunning God and removing His moral directives from societal living.

The remaining verses in Romans chapter one reveals these consequences, such as idolatry, debased sex, and a plethora of other sins that come about in a society that rejects the existence of the true God, Creator, and His moral code. When people lose God, they lose themselves! We see from the next set of verses that man’s natural development is not upward but downward; he does not *evolve* but *devolve*. He is not ascending the ladder toward God but descending from God. He has continued a downward spiral of depravity within all paganzed civilizations throughout the world.

Romans 1:25 goes on to say: **“Who changed the truth of God into a lie** (*rejecting the existence of the true God, a form of atheism, they move from monotheism to polytheism, exchanging the light of reason and revelation inherent in all human beings that there is only one God who exists as the Creator and Divine Moral Giver, replacing it for the lie, as in 2 Thessalonians 2:11, that*



idols are real gods and replace the true sovereign Lord and God, breaking the second commandment – Ex. 20:4), and worshipped and served the creature (the false gods of paganism and heathenism which took on the form of animals and insects) more than the Creator (the majority of people living in the midst of a heathen society or community were found worshipping false gods instead of acknowledging the true and living God – Jer. 10:10; 1 Thess. 1:9), who is blessed for ever. Amen” (no matter how much the heathen dishonor God, His glory has not been diminished and doxology and praise is extended to Creator God – 1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 110:10).

The breakdown of normal ethical patterns begins when a society dismisses the true God as the Creator and moral Lawgiver. The light of reason and conscience is turned off and all kinds of sinful depravity is witnessed. This is what we read about in the next portion of Romans chapter one. We must begin with a lesson on the birds and the bees! What does God teach about the human sexes? The Bible reveals God’s mind or thinking on human sexuality in the next verses.



That which is considered “natural” and in accord with “nature” - inborn intuition (Rom. 1:26-32)



That which is unnatural and outside nature

Romans 1:26-27 goes on to reveal the moral breakdown when speaking about female homosexuality. Romans 1:26 says: **“For this cause** (*putting the true God out of their conscience and minds and replacing Him with other false and imaginary gods) God gave them up unto vile affections (as in verses 24 and 28, when men persistently*

abandon God, God will abandon them - God in His permissive and judicial judgment turns people over to their own sinful choices and consequences, removing all moral restraints, to live with passions that are disgraceful and dishonorable, unnatural appetites in which all normal instincts are left behind, degrading their own humanness through the possession of a depraved mind, existing without a moral compass or conscience, essentially experience a curse upon their conscience to live within the lowest point of their own moral depravity – 1 Tim. 4:2): **for even their women (female homosexuality – lesbianism) did change** (exchange, as in vs. 25, indicating their homosexuality was not biological but a learned lifestyle based upon their sinful dispositions, and that homosexuality is the ultimate expression of mankind’s moral degeneracy that strips people of their human dignity) **the natural use** (natural in relation to God’s created order and established virtues, not natural to a sinners depraved mind, lust, and emotions, but moving away from what is natural, inborn, and intrinsic heterosexual desires, they willfully exchanged the natural heterosexual impulses for homosexual desires and used their bodies for depraved sexual acts, which were not only a perversion, but inversion of God’s natural order) **into that which is against nature:** (the sin of lesbianism or female homosexuality goes against what is natural or in accord with nature, God’s creative design, the God-given, instinctive, or inborn disposition and constitutional makeup placed within all human beings regarding heterosexuality).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

Alan F. Johnson said:

“Without God there are no abiding truths, lasting principles, or norms, and man is cast upon a sea of speculation and skepticism and attempted self-salvation.”

Romans 1:27 addresses male homosexuality:

“And likewise also the men (male homosexuality = pederasty), leaving the natural use of the woman (they were not born with homosexual desires, but leaving the God-given natural desires of heterosexuality, they learned this lifestyle, and caused their bodies to function in debased forms of sexual expression with the same sex), burned in their lust one toward another (they also sought this debased lifestyle with inflamed lusts, passions on fire, a type of lust that consumes and overcomes them and which can result in rage when not satisfied – Gen. 19:11); men with men working that which is unseemly (shameful, indecent, dishonorable acts of male

homosexuality which defies the natural God-given instincts of heterosexuality), and receiving in themselves (their own persons) that recompence (receiving the due reward or penalty of God's judgment, which is the expression of His wrath, as in verse 18, for their unorthodox ways of living, which is not some outward physical disease or debilitating problem, but contextually references the inner loss of a person's sexual identity, when they are by a judicial act of God given over to vile affections and a reprobate mind of homosexuality, as explained in verses 26 and 28) of their error (their wandering or straying from the sexual norms of orthodoxy established by God) which was meet (the type and degree of God's judgment or punishment was fitting in that it corresponds exactly to the person's deviation and deflection from God).

When man forsakes the AUTHOR of nature, he inevitably forsakes the ORDER of nature. Many homosexuals will tell you that "God made me this way." But they are ignorantly denying what God says in His Word. The Bible repeatedly states that homosexuals exchange or replace the innate and natural heterosexual desires that God implants within all people for unnatural homosexual desires. The Bible says that they exchange that which is natural (inborn) for something unnatural (vs. 26) and leave the natural (vs. 27). Jude 7 identifies homosexuality as "strange flesh" (flesh of another kind) which is not in accordance with nature. The Bible repeatedly teaches that homosexuality is "contrary to or alongside natural acts." Even most pagan societies have recognized the clearly obvious fact that homosexuality is abnormal and unnatural. It is also an abnormality that is unique to man.

Let's be clear about something. Homosexuality is not the result of a genetic code or gene built into the DNA of people. No person is born a homosexual. They are born intuitively believing in God and His sexual moral code for society (Rom. 1:19; 2:14-15). Homosexuality is a deliberate choice to move away from natural sex to perverted sex. The Bible categorically denies that homosexuality is something inborn or biological. Rather, it is a learned lifestyle that is developed through wrong relationships, visual stimulations of the flesh, and sometimes other unfortunate upbringings and occurrences within a person's life (1 Cor. 15:33).

Ray Pritchard said:

"Whenever men turn away from God, terrible things begin to happen in society. Long-held standards disappear. Things once considered incredible now become commonplace. Evil no longer seems evil. The basic distinctions between male and female are obliterated. No one knows the difference between right and wrong. In

such an atmosphere, homosexuality is first tolerated, then accepted, then praised, and finally enshrined as the ultimate freedom."

Pritchard then concludes:

"More than anything else, homosexuality is a willful choice. No one can say, 'I was born that way.' No one is born homosexual. No one. Anyone who argues otherwise is either ignorant of the Bible or has deliberately perverted its teaching. You can talk all you want about genetics, the size of the hypothalamus, about absent fathers, over-protective mothers, about early sexual confusion, and even about sexual abuse. Some of those things may indeed create a predisposition to this particular sin. But the fact remains:

"Every act of homosexuality—whether in word or deed or in lustful thought—every single act is a personal moral choice. Temptation is not the issue because temptation in and of itself is not a sin (James 1:14). But giving in to temptation—whether mentally, verbally or in actual deed—is a sin (James 1:15). That's a moral choice for which God will hold you 100% accountable. You can't blame your choices on your hypothalamus! You can't even blame your father for his failure to be there when you needed him...As a society moves away from God, one mark of its drift into judgment is widespread homosexuality. The tragic fact is that this is exactly where America is today."

Homosexuality insults and violates God's creative purpose for marriage. It was a marriage between Adam and Eve – not Adam and Steve or Ellie and Eve. Again, homosexuals claim to be born with homosexual drives and that they are wired biologically different than straight people. However, the very creation account disproves this debunked theory for God originally created the male and female sexes for each other.

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Now reflect on this for a moment. God would not devise a sexual plan for mankind and then create a different sexual drive for some people so that they miss out on His creative design for their sex lives. God does not mock men. Genesis reveals that sexual differentiation is the basis for human marriage, procreation, and family life.

Homosexual relationships cannot fulfill God's procreative dimensions of human sexuality and marriage (Gen. 1:28). Do you realize that if Adam had decided to be a homosexual nobody would have ever been born? Let me tell you a secret. Homosexual relationships cannot make babies. In the Bible we discover that children are to have parents and these parents are called "father" and "mother" (Exodus 20:12; Luke 18:20; Eph. 6:1-2) – not father and father or mother and mother.

Because of the unnatural relationship of homosexuality there are also specific consequences related to these relationships. For instance, the Bible says that they "burned in their lust one toward another" (Rom. 1:27). The consuming or burning lust among homosexuals is not only a Biblical truth but living reality among homosexual relationships. In the United States and many other western countries, it is not uncommon for homosexual males to have 300 partners a year. The New York City forensic expert, Dr. Milton Helpern, who makes no claim of being a Christian and avoids making moral judgments about homosexuality, nevertheless comments about the thousands of autopsies he performed. He warns that anyone who chooses a homosexual lifestyle should be prepared for the consequences.

Dr. Helpern remarks:

"When we see ... brutal, multiple wound cases in a single victim ... we just automatically assume that we're dealing with a homosexual victim and a homosexual attacker.... I don't know why it is so, but it seems that the violent explosions of jealousy among homosexuals far exceed those of the jealousy of a man for a woman, or a woman for a man. The pent-up charges and energy of the homosexual relationship simply cannot be contained. When the explosive point is reached, the result is brutally violent... But this is the 'normal' pattern of these homosexual attacks, the multiple stabbings, the multiple senseless beatings that obviously must continue long after the victim dies."

Jesus said in Matthew 13:15, "For this people's heart is waxed gross (*calloused – unable to comprehend or understand*), and their ears are dull of hearing (*refusal to hear the truth*), and their eyes they have closed" (*willfully after seeing the light*). The path to spiritual blindness and corruption is a chosen path. Out of intellectual defiance these heathen people rejected the light of creation and moral reasoning, which resulted in God bringing judgment against them. The judgment is a total loss of inward illumination in relation to God's existence and morals or ethics. As part

of His punitive judgment, God gives these heathen people over to wrong *living* (Rom. 1:24), wrong *loving* (Rom. 1:26) and now wrong *thinking* (Rom. 1:28). In other words, God removes the moral restraints in their conscience to live in the darkness of their sinful depravity. This is what happens when a society shuns God and plunges itself deeper and deeper into delusion and sinful degradation.

Psalm 81:12 is similar to what Paul is teaching:

“So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: *and* they walked in their own counsels.”

When God gives someone over to their own fleshly lusts they are left to waddle through life without moral restraints. This alone is punishment enough for their departure from God and His ways. The divine abandonment of men to their sin, when they become “past feeling” (Eph. 4:19) or no longer possess any moral compass, is not necessarily an eternal abandonment. When God abandons a person to their sin (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28) it does not mean he is ultimately abandoning and consigning their soul to hell and that there is no hope for them. We should not read this into these texts in Romans chapter one since the Corinthians were saved out of these depraved acts of homosexuality (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Homosexuals do not commit the unpardonable sin from which there is no hope. Paul uses the same word (“gave up” - Greek *paradidomi*) in delivering the offender over to Satan with the hope of salvation and deliverance (1 Cor. 5:5). Jesus was also delivered up for us (same word) in Romans 8:32 with the prospect of paying sin’s penalty and rising from the dead. So, this word does not connote that a person is without the hope of salvation and that God forever consigns them to eternal judgment.

We must remember that there is a sense in which all unsaved people possess a cold and calloused heart toward spiritual things while they are being controlled by lust and the Devil in their unregenerate state (Eph. 2:1-2). All people in their unsaved state are in some measure desensitized to the Gospel as they exist within their sinful depravity and are separated from God (Rom. 3:9-19). However, in another sense, when a person over a period of time continually rejects light (revelation) and is hardened by an extended period of unbelief, sin, and debauchery, when they persist in their sin and unbelief toward the Gospel and God’s truth, the Lord reserves the right to turn them over to the consequences of their sinful choices and ways (Ex. 7:13-14).

God does this by removing the light of reason and restraints within the realm of their conscience and turns them over to reap the appropriate consequences of their rejection of all moral dignity and righteousness (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). God's penal judgment can affect people in many ways – physically, psychologically, and emotionally. In Romans chapter one, the suggestion is that homosexuals reap something within themselves (“receiving in themselves” - Rom. 1:27), or something that is internalized, which pertains to a loss of their sexual identity, creating sexual confusion and a loss of their purpose in life as a human being, due to their perverted passions. Of course, practicing homosexuals also have a history of suicide due to their lifestyle and depraved habits of sexual confusion. This too can ultimately be the result of God giving them over to their sinful depravity and a depraved mind. There is a penalty to pay when people are given over to perverted passions which are not patterned after God's order.

In some cases, the condition of a heathen's hardened heart might lead to his final abandonment of God and God's patience running out (Gen. 6:3), but this depends on the utter callousness and stubbornness of an individual's heart (Matt. 7:6; 2 Pet. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:2; Matt. 13:15; John 3:19; 5:40; Rev. 16:9-11). Only God really knows when a person reaches this state of mind and heart and when His patience runs out.

“There is a time, we know not when;
There is a place, we know not where
That seals the destiny of men
For glory or despair.”

Aaron Burr, the third Vice President of the United States, was reared in a godly home and admonished to accept Christ by his grandfather Jonathan Edwards. But he refused to listen. Instead, he declared that he wanted nothing to do with God and said he wished the Lord would leave him alone. He did achieve a measure of political success in spite of repeated disappointments. But he was also involved in continuous strife, and when he was 48 years old, he killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. He lived for 32 more years, but through all this time he was unhappy and unproductive. It was during this sad chapter in his life that he declared to a group of friends:

“Sixty years ago I told God that if He would let me alone, I would let Him alone, and God has not bothered about me since.” Aaron Burr got what he wanted. People

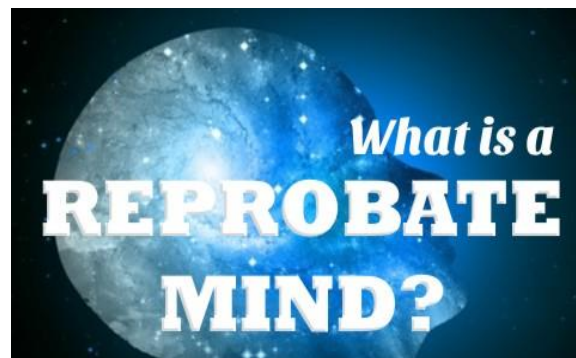
who want nothing to do with God make themselves candidates for this type of ultimate judgment. They spend their days alienated from Him and will spend eternity banished from God's presence unless they repent while they still have breath to do so.

Here is the point. As long as sinful men are alive, God provides opportunity for their salvation through the Gospel light (2 Cor. 4:3-4) and the Spirit's inner conviction (John 16:8), which can penetrate through heathen darkness (Acts 17:30-31; Matt. 4:16; Isa. 9:2).

It's always God's desire that all men, even while living in a state of utter wickedness and vileness, will come to repentance. God patiently waits for their spiritual deliverance and gives them space and time to repent of their lawlessness and moral depravity (Rev. 2:20-21; 2 Pet. 3:9). God often allows people to go deeper and deeper into sin in order to drive them to despair and show them their need for Him through salvation and the new birth (Rom. 5:6-10). His temporal punishments for living a wicked lifestyle can have the positive result of future deliverance or salvation and magnify God's grace (1 Tim. 1:15-16).

Deffinbaugh has this interesting comment on "the wrath of God" and God's offer of salvation to the heathen: "God's present wrath is really a gracious gesture on God's part. It is not permanent, and it is not irreversible. When God gives men over to sin, He is not giving up on men. Giving men over to sin is God's way of encouraging men to forsake their sin and to be saved. While God's future wrath, once in force, cannot be reversed or escaped, God's present wrath can be reversed, and men can escape. The reason for this is that God has already poured out His "future wrath" on Jesus Christ. This is the good news of the gospel. God's anger toward sin has been satisfied in Christ because His wrath was poured out on Him, at Calvary." This reminds us that people can be saved out of terrible sins and seemingly hopeless situations.

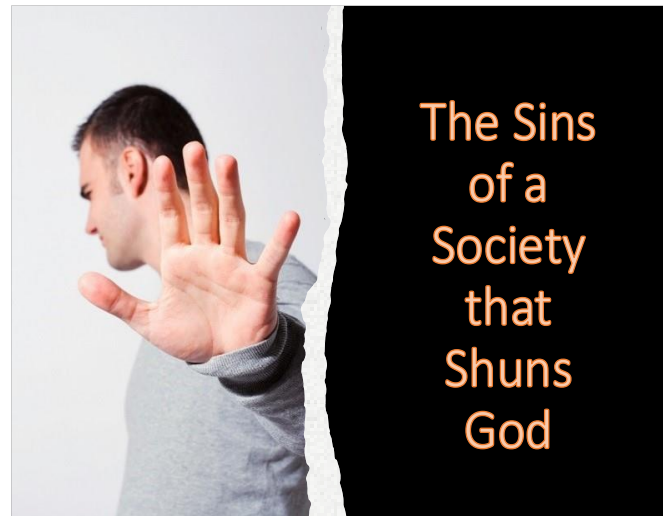
Romans 1:28 goes on to reveal the breakdown of societal norms: "**And even as they did not like to retain** (*hold or possess*) **God in their knowledge** (*thinking or reasoning as in verse 21*), **God gave them over** (*by withdrawing His restraining, moral*



*influence within the realm of their inner conscience, God allows the consequences of their sin to take its inevitable, destructive course in their lives, causing people to become totally consumed and controlled by their sin, possessing no moral restraints, and suffering the effects of their sin, ultimately degrading man, debasing the image of God in which he is made, and stripping man of dignity) **to a reprobate mind** (God hands them over to a rejected mind, which is a bent or twisted way of thinking and perverted attitude that rejects God, a mind that is unprincipled and morally abandoned, a mind disapproved and therefore disqualified from understanding or knowing the truth, a mind that is fundamentally unable to think and decide correctly about God and His will, or to comprehend and practice biblical and ethical principles, since the mind has rejected the only way of truth), **to do those things which are not convenient** (the sinful and degrading acts of homosexuality that are not suitable, fitting, or proper from a moral or ethical perspective, in committing this sexual perversion people dishonor their bodies and diminish their human dignity).*

The topic of homosexuality is a hot button issue in our culture and even within the professing church. The Bible clearly unveils God's mind and judgment against this sin in both Old and New Testaments (Lev. 20:13). Romans chapter one gives a scathing rebuke of the sin of homosexuality.

The final section in Romans chapter one states Paul's conclusion on the subject of homosexuality and then gives additional diabolical sins (22 to be exact!) that are witnessed in a society that has canceled God and put Him out of their mind and living. These additional sins mentioned follow the same patterns of depravity. Like other lists of sins in Scripture, this is not an exhaustive list but a list of additional sins that demonstrate what



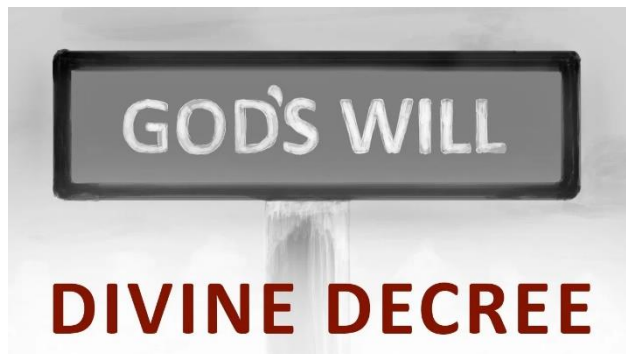
occurs when a society shuns or abandons God and His morals. However, in another sense this "laundry list" of sins does cover the entire gamut of life, be it the home, the family, marriage, the workplace, the church. No area of life is left unaffected by man's decision to turn his back on God.

In a sense, this last portion of our study is a comment upon the doctrine of total depravity (Rom. 3:10-19). The historic Protestant doctrine uses phrases such as "spiritually dead, inherently corrupt, incapable of pleasing God and hopelessly lost" to describe the plight of the human race apart from Jesus Christ. What does it mean to be "inherently corrupt?" It means to live in the way Paul describes in the next verses.

Romans 1:29-32

“Being filled (the sexual deviants previously mentioned were already full of other sins, along with their diabolical friends, which becomes a further explanation of societal sins that result in abandonment from God and His ways, due to a reprobate mind that rejects God, a mind that is perverted in its reasonings and ambitions) **with all unrighteousness** (that which is morally wrong and unjust and which God brings His wrath against, as stated in verse 18), **fornication** (unlawful sexual immorality in all of its forms, including fornication, adultery, and incest), **wickedness** (iniquity, depravity, the active working of evil), **covetousness** (greed and the incessant desire for more, an excessive desire to possess something that one does not have or should not have – a violation of the 10th commandment), **maliciousness** (the absence of good and promotion of malice or evil, a venomous hatred, an ill-will and desire to harm or commit evil acts against others); **full of envy** (spiteful jealousy of others), **murder** (the premeditated and unlawful taking of human life), **debate** (contention, strife, quarreling), **deceit** (trickery aimed to hurt people), **malignity** (evil-mindedness, maliciousness, possessing an evil disposition, hostility, and bitterness toward others); **whisperers** (secret gossips and slanderers, privately peddling evil reports), **Backbiters** (open gossips or slanderers – those who bad-mouth others to destroy them), **haters of God** (hateful of God’s ways and truth), **despiteful** (insulting and maltreatment toward others, shameful and violent acts committed against others), **proud** (haughty and arrogance, an inflated ego of oneself), **boasters** (braggarts, arrogant promoter and lover of self), **inventors of evil things** (plotters of evil schemes, devisers of mischief and new forms of wickedness, an evil mode of thinking and existence), **disobedient to parents** (rebellious to parental authority – a violation of the fifth commandment), **Without understanding** (foolish and undiscerning from a spiritual, moral, and Biblical perspective – the stupidity of the ungodly), **covenantbreakers** (someone whose word is not good, breaking promises, agreements and contracts whenever it serves one’s purpose, to be untrustworthy and unfaithful), **without natural affection** (a lack of love for family, a hard heart toward kin), **implacable**: (those who do not commit themselves to others, they

cannot agree or be reconciled with others, an unforgiving person), **unmerciful** (not showing sympathy and kindness toward others, cruel, vindictive, without pity)



“Who knowing the judgment of God (the ordinance, established law, ordained decree of God which has been placed within all heathen humanity, a decree that people innately, intuitively and originally know about God’s existence, their accountability to His moral laws, and understanding of His

disfavor, displeasure, and judgment against sinful activities, but who suppress this decree or truth as stated in verse 18, and willfully and flagrantly engage in these sins anyway), **that they which commit** (continually practice these sins in their unregenerate state – 1 John 3:8-10; John 8:44) **such things are worthy of death** (God can in justice and righteousness condemn them to spiritual death – separation from God in Hell because of their sins – Rom. 6:23), **not only do the same** (practice these sins themselves with callousness toward truth and morality), **but have pleasure in them** (others) **that do them”** (have pleasure also in the moral depravity of others as they engage in the same types of sins, signifying a total defiance against God and unrepentance from the shameful acts of sin).

This gallery of iniquity was not only true of the first-century heathen world during the original Gospel expansion and outreach; it is equally true today. These are the marks of a civilization nearing collapse. However, even though all men are sinners (Rom. 3:23), not all men regress so far as others into the same realm of wickedness. Man’s depravity is not always seen in its most extreme condition. But any person who willfully rejects God is headed in the direction of the conditions here described.

This portion of Scripture gives ample proof that the heathen who have never heard the Gospel are lost. The head of the department of evangelism for a major denomination in America once said, “We don’t need to evangelize the people of the world who have never heard the message of salvation. We only need to announce to them that they’re already saved.” This is based on the false premise of universalism and that God is too loving to send anyone to hell. The Bible teaches that all men are lost and that they will be judged according to the light they have

received (Rom. 2:12-15; Acts 17:30-31) but their judgment is certain because they are given illumination within their conscience concerning the existence of the eternal God, His creation, morals, and their accountability to Him. They also have the outward visible display of creation to substantiate the inner witness. Rejecting creation is rejecting light and worthy of God's judgment.

Dan Crawford, British missionary to Africa, said: "The heathen are sinning against a flood of light." There is a desperate need for us to carry the Gospel to all men, for this is the only way they can be saved. But no heathen person is without excuse, whether he lives in the Timbuktu of Africa or is walking the streets of New York City. This is because they were given the intuitive knowledge within their conscience that there is only one true God, that He is Creator of everything, and that He has a basic moral code to which each one of them are accountable.

There are various Bible descriptions of those who deny God, defy God, gender order, and which promote general wickedness within a society. They are described as being:

- **Dead** (separated from God – Eph. 2:1-2; 4:18)
- **Depraved** (Rom. 1:28; 2 Tim. 3:8).
- **Dumb** (fools – Rom. 1:22; Ps. 14:1)
- **Dulled** (past feeling – Eph. 4:19; 1 Tim. 4:2)
- **Deceived** (Col. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:4)
- **Damned** (Matt. 23:33; 2 Pet. 2:3).

Although there are many Christians in America, it seems that our country is fast becoming a reflection of Romans chapter one. It is moving away from Christian principles and is engaging in the practice of shunning God from a moral and Biblical perspective. Even though America may have never been a *Christian* nation like Israel, it was certainly a *Christianized* nation which reflected a belief in the Creator God and basic morality.

Here is a basic summary of past America from Answers in Genesis:

"Christians established the Plymouth Colony in 1620—an event we celebrate every year at Thanksgiving. Great Awakenings of Christian revivals spread throughout the colonies in the 1730s and 1740s and later throughout the United States at various times. The majority of Ivy League universities were founded by at least some Christians, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, the University of

Pennsylvania, and Brown. Certainly, there were periodic outbursts of non-Christian behavior in American history (e.g., the Salem witch trials), but the overall religious tenor of our early country was not Muslim, Hindu, or even atheist. It was Christian.”

Sadly, America has been traveling down the road of depravity and degradation as outlined in Romans chapter one. Atheism (the denial of the true God’s existence) and its sister philosophy (communism) is gaining traction and is moving our country into a postmodern America run by atheists and haters of God and Christianity. It’s a country that continues to promote in a greater way the philosophies of secular humanism, progressivism, atheism, heathenism, libertinism, hedonism, evolutionism, existentialism, pluralism, and relativism. The America we once knew and loved, as Christians, seems to be on the way out, as we continue to travel down the Roman’s Road of moral depravity and depravation.

But thank God that in the midst of degeneration there is the continuing promise of regeneration – new birth and life (John 3:7). God can bring people out of the swamp of heathenism and change their lives forever.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (*meaning ‘soft’ – the partner who takes on a passive role or feminine trait within a male homosexual relationship*), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (*the partner who has the active role or male trait within a male homosexual relationship*), Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

And such were some of you! This reminds us that the light of the Gospel is greater than the darkness of sin and can penetrate the spiritual darkness within man’s soul, introducing a person to the revelation and message of salvation through Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:3-4). We must remember that when a civilization is given over to these types of sinful departures, darkness, debauchery, and depravity, which is accompanied by widespread despair and turmoil, that God’s light begins to shine brighter.

Jesus said in Matthew 4:16:

“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”

Ray Pritchard adds these final comments:

“It is only when a man comes to the end of himself that he is ready to think about Jesus Christ. But when that moment of emptiness comes, when he finally faces the "God-shaped vacuum" inside, when he discovers that disobedience only leads to pain, when he reaps the bitter harvest of his own sin, then and only then has he become a candidate for the grace of God! Unfortunately, some people never figure it out in time. They die without realizing the folly of their own behavior. But others come to the end and finally, after many mistakes, they begin to look up. When they do, they find that God is there waiting for them.”

Let us never forget that we were all heathen at one time who were by God’s marvelous grace saved out of the sinking sand of depravity (Rom. 3:9-20).



“In loving-kindness Jesus came,
My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depths of sin and shame
Through grace He lifted me.

From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me;
From shades of night to plains of light,
Oh, praise His Name, He lifted me!”

We need to possess a heart of compassion toward those who are sunk in sinful depravity and keep sharing the Gospel truth with them. “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (Jude 23).

Someone said:

“Let’s keep on proclaiming the good news in the confidence that the Holy Spirit will break through the hostile indifference of God-haters, capture their attention, and win their believing response to the saving message of grace. After all, that’s what He did with you and me.”

“Lord, help us not respond in kind
To those who hate and turn from You;
Instead, help us to love and pray
That someday they’ll accept what’s true.”

As we finish this study, we must remind ourselves that our personal hope is in God (Rom. 15:13) through the spiritual promises and resources He gives to us during these declining days in America. May God grant each one of us as Christians His inner peace, joy, and contentment as we keep looking unto Jesus (Heb. 12:2) and finding our sufficiency in God (2 Cor. 3:5).