

I. Introduction and review. What is the worst thing God could do to judge a nation?

A. Evolution or Devolution?

B. When men abandon God, God will abandon them. Ps. 81:11-12 II Chron. 24:20

II. God abandoned mankind to lustful impurity. v. 24-25

A. God judges sin by giving men over to more sin. v. 24a

1. Sin in the religious sphere (v. 21-23) is punished by sin in the moral sphere.
2. In what sense does God *give them over*? v. 24,26,28 I Ti. 1:20 I Co. 5:5 Jo. 18:35
 - a. Not by merely passively permitting men to do evil.
 - b. Judicial abandonment: God positively gives men over to the judgment of more intensified wickedness.
3. Yet man remains fully responsible. v. 32 Eph. 4:19
 - a. What is said to be God's work is also declared to be the sinner's own work.
 - b. God does not entice or coerce men to sin. James 1:13
 - c. God simply gives man what he wants.
4. Being given over to sin is the worst thing that could happen to you.
5. The greater measure of sin stores up a greater toll of retributive vengeance in the last judgment. Col. 3:5-6

B. God gives them over to filthy lusts. v. 24b

1. Man's root problem is heart impurity, which leads to fleshly deeds. Mk. 7:20-23
Jer. 17:9 Pr. 4:23 Js. 1:14-15
2. Because they failed to honor God, their bodies are dishonored.
3. Honor comes from recognizing your body belongs to God. I Co. 6:13,18-20

C. All moral impurity is the consequence of our failure to worship God. v. 25, 19-23

1. This shameful degradation of humanity has occurred because men chose to believe the lie and to worship and serve idols. v. 25a
2. Again Paul refutes pluralism: Most religion keeps people from the true God. Every other religion is a lie. Is. 44:20 Je. 13:25 I Co. 8:4 Jo. 14:6 II Th. 2:10f
3. Paul counteracts their blasphemous rejection of God by giving Him the honor which is His due. v. 25b 9:5 11:36 16:25-27 Eph. 1:3f
4. Conversion is exchanging the idolatrous lies for the truth of God. I Th. 1:9

III. God abandoned them to unnatural passions. v. 26-27.

A. Sexual anarchy is the result of religious apostasy. v. 26

1. God designed sex as a meaningful, honorable, delightful and fruitful expression of the marriage covenant. Ge.1:28 2:24 Heb. 13:4a Pr. 6:18-19 Song of Solomon
2. All sexual sin (adultery, fornication, lust, homosexuality, etc.) is a defiant rejection of God's created order for the family. Mt. 19:4 Heb. 13:4b.

B. Homosexuality illustrates the extent of human degradation. v. 27a

1. Just as they exchanged the truth of God for lying idols, they exchanged normal sexual function for perverse practices. v. 26b
2. Their desire burns out of control. Ge. 19:11
3. They commit indecent acts.

C. Why are people homosexual?

1. People are not “naturally” homosexual. Mt. 19:4
2. Other sexual orientations are “disoriented” expressions of rebellion against God.
3. God has given them over to their passions.

D. They are under God’s judgment. v. 27b

1. Homosexuality is condemned by God. Lev. 20:13 18:22 Ge. 19:4-9 Jud. 19:22-24 Isa. 3:9 Lam. 4:6 I Co. 6:9-10 I Ti. 1:10 II Pe. 2:6 Jude 7
2. Abandonment to the sin of homosexuality is judgment from God.
3. God brings consequences for sexual immorality. Gal. 6:7-8

IV. God abandoned them to a depraved mind. v. 28-32

A. God rejects those who have rejected Him. v. 28 Ps. 118:22

1. Men have arrogantly dismissed God as worthless. v. 28a Job 21:14-15
2. God has given them over to mental and spiritual worthlessness. v. 28b

B. Out of their depraved minds comes every kind of evil behavior. v. 29-31 Mk. 7:20f

1. Each of these sins is rooted in their rejection of God and His rejection of them.
2. A catalogue of sin (21 vices). II Ti. 3:2-5 I Co. 6:9-10 Ga. 5:19-21 Col. 3:5-9
3. Mankind is totally depraved! God’s wrath is justly provoked. 1:18 3:10f

C. Deep down they know their sinful acts deserve God’s wrath. v. 32a

1. Even those without the Scriptures cannot claim ignorance.
2. The law of God is written on the hearts of all people. 1:21 2:14-15 Js. 4:17
3. Their attempts to suppress the knowledge of God have failed.
4. They also know the due penalty of their sin, God’s holy wrath.
5. Again Paul’s teaching shows natural revelation leaves all without excuse.

D. Not only does their conscience fail to deter their sin, but they even celebrate the sins of others. v. 32b John 3:19-20

1. This is the bottom rung of moral insanity, their crowning offense. Ecc. 9:3
2. They praise evil and curse what is good. Pr. 2:14 Ezek. 16:25 Isa. 5:20

V. Concluding Applications.

A. God’s anger is being revealed against ungodliness and unrighteousness.

B. We have contracted Spiritual AIDS.

C. God has a cure. 4:25 8:32 Ga. 2:20 Eph. 5:2,25 I Co. 6:9-11 Rev. 2:20-21 II Pe. 3:9

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. In what sense is humanity devolving?
2. Why is God judging humanity? v. 21-23,25
3. How is God judging humanity? v. 24,26,28
4. How can man be held responsible when God has given him over to sin? v. 32 Eph. 4:19
5. Where do people behave immorally? v. 25-26
6. Why are some people homosexual? v. 26-27
7. How is God judging them? v. 27b
8. What is the proper (natural) place for sex?
9. With which of the catalogue of sins do you struggle most? v. 29-31
10. What do immoral people know deep down about their sins? v. 32a
11. Why do immoral people applaud immorality? v. 32b