

I

A Depraved Society

ROMANS 1:24–32

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They

are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.

They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

PROVERBS 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1–5

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

READ | ROMANS 1:24–32

THINK ABOUT

Do you know what human depravity means? It means that all of us are sinful to the core of our being, and there is no innate goodness found in us (see Romans 3:10–12). In this passage, Paul describes the essence of mankind’s depravity by saying that we “exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (1:25). He also helps us understand the extent of our sinfulness in verses 28–32. We indeed live in a “depraved society”!

APPLY

This portion of Scripture reminds us just how lost someone is before knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. If you are a follower of Christ, take a few moments to reflect upon who you once were in your depravity, and then, thank God in prayer for rescuing you out of your sinfulness. Also, jot down some ways you’ve seen God change you since coming to saving faith in Christ. What a blessing it is to know God personally through His Son. Read and study this rich theological letter with an attitude of thanksgiving.

ASK

What does God want you to understand about human depravity?

What does Romans 1:24–32 tell us about all people?

What is God’s solution for our sinfulness?

THE BIG IDEA

There exists divine consequences for a depraved generation and culture. The blatant rejection of truth caused God to give mankind “over” to the depravity of their hearts and minds. God has removed all restraints and has allowed those who reject the truth to burn in their passion and desire for that which will ultimately lead to their destruction. This is partially what it means to trade the “glory of God for corruptible and debased things of this world.”

KEY POINTS

God shows the nature, purpose, and depth of divine withdrawal (vv. 24–25, 28).

He particularly reveals the results of divine withdrawal from depraved mankind (vv. 26–27, 29–31).

How sad to see the greatest height of man’s depravity (v. 32).

LIFE APPLICATION

Sin always has consequences.

Those who reject God’s truth and refuse to repent will experience the wrath of God.

All sexual immorality, including homosexuality, is contrary to God’s design for us.

DISCUSSION

What specific sins in a person’s life do you think may incur the wrath of God?

Why do people choose to disregard the truth, wisdom, and knowledge of God?

What practically happens to a person, culture, or country when God gives them up?

“A DEPRAVED SOCIETY”

Romans 1:24-32

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