

## The Depths of Depravity # 4

Romans 1: 24-32

In our text today, Paul continues to deal with the depravity of sinful men. This passage reveals the character of those who desire to please the flesh above seeking the Lord and serving Him. These issues were prevalent in Paul's day and they remain in ours as well.

I will admit at the onset of our study that these verses have taken center stage in national debate. They are marginalized by some and completely ignored by others. Many have sought to distort the truth they reveal. I remain convinced that all Scripture is inspired by God and will remain when all else has faded away. I choose to align myself with the Word of God rather than popular opinion or political correctness.

I want to examine the [attributes](#) possessed by those revealed in text, as we consider: [The Depths of Depravity](#).

**I. The Choice of Rebellion** (24-25) – The lifestyle the natural man lives is a life of choice. He chooses a life that fulfills the lust and desires of the flesh. These have chosen to reject the Truth. Consider his choices:

**A. He Chooses Sin** (24) – [Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves](#): The natural man always chooses a life of sin over the will and Word of God. He is corrupt in his nature and cares nothing for the things of God. The longer he chooses to remain in sin, the more vile and corrupt he becomes. His appetite for sin becomes more insatiable daily. He is never satisfied, always wanting more. He chooses self satisfying sin over soul redeeming salvation! He made the choice, not God!

**B. He Chooses Self** (25) – [Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen](#). Man is a creature who has an inner need to worship something. Natural man has chosen the life of sin rather than submit to God's command. He begins to worship "self," the creature instead of the Creator.

- Since God's law condemns his sinful practice, he creates his own god, changing the truth to a lie. He has given up that which is pure, holy, and right for that which is defiled, sinful, and wrong. His philosophy is built upon a lie, one that says he can live as he pleases without consequence. These seek to influence and corrupt society with their lies.

**II. The Characteristics of Rebellion (26-31)** – He has made the choice and God has given them up to their vile affections, [V.26a](#). These sins have been evident in every major society in history and America is no exception.

**A. The Attraction (26-27a)** – [For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:](#) <sup>[27a]</sup> [And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another;](#) Paul is dealing with the sin of homosexuality. This is a sinful lifestyle that is gaining momentum in America. Celebrities, politicians, and many in main-stream America are defending and promoting the homosexual lifestyle. Those who oppose it are viewed as bigots and hate mongers.

- [Lev.18:22- Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination.](#) Many argue the verse I just quoted was given in the Old Testament and no longer bears weight in modern society. God does not change His mind regarding sin. If it was considered sinful then, it remains sin today. There can be no doubt that Paul is dealing with the sin of homosexuality in this passage. God is clear on where He stands; we must be as well. There is an outright cry for “tolerance” and “acceptance”. There are those within the Baptist faith who have compromised and refuse to stand, but we must remain true to the Word of God.

**B. The Addiction (27b)** – [men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.](#) The choice of these individuals brings certain consequences: the judgment of God. They chose their sinful acts and will receive the judgment deserved.

- As men continue to feed the attraction of the flesh, they soon become addicted to that attraction. They are literally overcome by their vile affections. Their addiction drives them to the depths of sinful depravity. That is the [recompence](#) of their error. [1 Tim.4:2 – Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.](#) God has removed His hand and given them fully to their sin. That is tragic!

**C. The Actions (29-31)** –These verses deal with the depravity of rebellious sinners. Consider:

**1. Unrighteousness, Fornication and Wickedness** - These three categories of sin encompass all those listed below and every other form of sin imaginable! They are all represented in these words.

2. **Covetousness** - Appetite for the things of others.
3. **Maliciousness** - ill-will and vengeance.
4. **Envy** - It is the spirit that wants not only the things that another person has, but begrudges the fact that the person has them. It is the spirit that wants not only the things to be taken away from the person, but wants him to suffer through the loss of them.
5. **Murder** - Obvious!
6. **Debate** - A spirit given to fighting!
7. **Deceit** - Pure old lying.
8. **Malignity** - A spirit filled with evil, envy and hatred that loves nothing better than the destruction of another human being!
9. **Whisperers** - A gossip who seeks to harm another's reputation.
10. **Backbiters** - While the one above is done in secret, this one is done in the open. It is the same spirit.
11. **Haters of God** - This is a person who hates the standards and restrictions imposed by God. His goal is to be the god of his own life.
12. **Despiteful** - A life of defiance that dares God or other men to get in its way. This kind of person is determined to have his own way at all costs.
13. **Proud** - Self-exaltation.
14. **Boasters** - This is a bragger. A person who brags about what he has or what he has done, even if it isn't necessarily true.
15. **Inventors of Evil Things** - This is a person who is tired of sin as usual and seeks new forms of pleasure and excitement.
16. **Disobedient to Parents** - Obvious! Watch a rebellious child! He/she is open to all kinds of sinful activity!
17. **Without Understanding** - This is a person who refuses to learn by experience. They have rejected the truth and have closed their eyes and minds to it!
18. **Covenant Breakers** - Untrustworthy! Refers to people who will not keep their word! You simply cannot depend on them!
19. **Without Natural Affection** - abnormal affection and love, heartless, without human emotion or love, a lack of feeling for others, abuse of normal affection and love. Others become little more

than pawns for a man's own use and benefit, pleasure and purposes, excitement and stimulation. Abnormal affection, sex and perversion prevail.

**20. Implacable** - A person who is unwilling to make peace or come to an agreement.

**21. Unmerciful** - It is an absence of consideration or feelings for others. What matters is one's own pleasure and rights, not the pleasure and rights of others. <sup>i</sup>

### **III. The Condemnation of Rebellion** (28, 32)

**A. Their Depravity** (28) – *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;* It is possible to so completely reject God that He will no longer trouble the soul with His Spirit. I believe many of this nature have reached that point. They have been consumed by their own lust and never feel God's convicting power.

▪ This is a fearful state to be in, never feeling the wooing of the Holy Spirit. *John 6:44a – No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.* God will give them over to a *reprobate mind*, one that is “*unapproved, morally worthless, and rejected.*” At this point, they are capable of all sorts of ungodly acts. I'll be honest I don't know what we can do for them except pray. They are in God's hands.

**B. Their Destiny** (32) – *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.* I believe these knew where their sin would lead. They have chosen to sin against the will of God, pursuing a sinful life. Without receiving salvation they are destined for an eternity in hell. It troubles me that they want others to adopt this sinful nature by promoting, defending, and engaging in sin. I pray they and others who are sympathetic to them will see the light before it is eternally too late.

**Conclusion:** Sin is still sin. God has not changed His mind. If it was an abomination when the law was given, it is still an abomination today. Those in main stream America may approve of this lifestyle, but God doesn't. It is very important that we take a stand on these issues. It will determine the future for our children. I hope that Christians will boldly stand and make it very clear what we believe. Will you stand with the Lord on this issue? Let us have a righteous indignation against sin, but continue to possess a love for their souls.

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<sup>i</sup> The Sermon Notebook - The Sermon Notebook – Romans.