

Romans 1:24–32
The Hatefulness of Pride Month

Monday, June 17, 2024 • Read Romans 1:24–32

Questions from the Scripture text: Who did what to men (v24)? To what did He give them up? In what? To do what to what? Among whom? What did these given-up men do (v25)? What two things were exchanged? In what worship did this result? Rather than worshipping Whom? And what is the glory of this Creator? How does the end of the verse add solemnity and certainty to this statement? To what did God further give them up in response (v26)? Upon whom did this further judgment of vile passions especially fall? What did they exchange for what? Against what is their behavior? Who else gave up what natural use (v27)? In what did they burn? For whom? Committing what, together? Receiving what? Where? For what was this penalty due? For what does v28 say that God is still punishing them (cf. v18–21)? To what does He further (thirdly!) give them up? What do they end up doing in this debased mind? With what are they thus filled (v29)? What twenty-two examples does the apostle give of this unrighteousness that fills them (v29–31)? What do all men know (v32)? Whose righteous judgment do they know? What does He righteously judge about those who practice such things? But how do they respond to knowing that these things deserve death? And even what to others who practice them?

Why is perversion of marriage so abominable and alarming? Romans 1:24–32 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **perversion of marriage is abominable and alarming because being given over to this sin, and its celebration, is a display of being under God's righteous wrath for refusing to know Him.**

The mayor of the nearby town has declared it pride month, joining the masses in our nation and its churches who “not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” It is a fulfillment of God's Word, an expression of His righteous wrath (v18) upon a nation, and even churches, who refuse to know Him, thank Him or glorify Him (v19–23). It is also a providentially provided opportunity to see the riches of His glory in His gospel mercy.

The whole discussion of the revelation of His wrath (v18) comes in the context of unashamedly preaching the gospel, because in it the saving righteousness of God is revealed (v16–17) over-against this revelation of God's wrath. So how has God's wrath been revealed? Especially in three “givings up” that show what all sin deserves, and how the practice and approval (!) of sin is the sure and horrible demonstration that men are indeed under God's wrath.

Uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts, v24–25. The first “giving up” shows how dreadful our sin is. It brings us into uncleanness, making us unfit to draw near to God in worship. As those whose hearts have chosen desires other than God (and apart from Him), every bodily expression of what's in a man's heart dishonors himself. The great truth about man is that he was created in God's image, for God's glory, according to God's law. But man exchanged that for the devil's lie: that man could create himself in his own image, for his own glory, according to his own ways. The uncleanness of living this way displays that man is under wrath for refusing to know, thank, or worship God.

Vile passions, v26–27. The second “giving up” shows how irrational our sin is. “vile passions” in v26 means “disgraceful emotions.” Not only is man's will evil, choosing creatures over the Creator, but his affections are evil too. The perversion of women with women, or men with men (instead of one man and one woman), displays God's wrath. Adultery and fornication are not marriage either, but when God gives men over to such perversions as in these verses, the very irrationality displays how deep-seated is man's God-rejecting wickedness. Our evil is so great that it not only misuses nature but even goes contrary to nature itself.

Debased mind, v28–31. The third “giving up” goes to our very root. God has designed our intellect to inform our affections, which move our wills. In the display of His wrath, God gives them over to themselves in their will, their affections, and their minds. In this case, the “debased mind” (v28), the non-functional mind, exposes them to being filled with all unrighteousness. This is what ungodliness and unrighteousness deserve: to fill up one's sin (v29). The perversions in v26–27 are emblematic of all sin. By being “against nature” (v26), they are the extreme case of what is “not fitting” (v28). All sin is irrational. All sin is abominable to God. All sin is destructive to man and to creation. Consider, from the twenty-two examples listed in v29–31, those which especially beset you. Do you easily recognize your sin as God-rejecting, self-destruction to which His wrath would rightly give you over? The perversions that are being celebrated by so many this month are so abominable, precisely to show us the abominable nature of all of our sin.

Approving those who do, v32. And all of this brings us to “pride month.” This is end-stage spiritual cancer that displays God's wrath upon a person or a nation. The conscience becomes so seared that they do not feel the need either to be alarmed or to be ashamed at their sin. Those who do such things know that they deserve death (v32), but they suppress this to the point that they do them without alarm. And they are so far from being ashamed of sin that they approve of it. Indeed, they make their sin their very identity. Some protest that by “pride” they mean not arrogant boastfulness (though all affirming of sin is arrogance against God!) but self-approval of their “identity.” Yet, self-approval is exactly that to which the Lord has given sinners up. For those whom the Lord gives over to their sin, it has been “pride month” for some six thousand years.

Vessels of mercy. In Romans 1, this display of wrath is the backdrop for the gospel's display of God's saving righteousness. God gives—even to such sinners as this!—His own righteousness through faith in Christ (3:21–24)! He patiently bears with vessels of wrath prepared for destruction precisely to “make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory” (9:22–23).

How dreadful is our sin! There is nothing more hateful than to tell ourselves that our sin is permissible or excusable. To celebrate “pride month” is to perpetrate “hate month.” Those who celebrate sinners' perversions hate sinners by doing so. But God loves and saves sinners. He reveals not just His wrath against sinners, but His righteousness, offered to them. How grateful we should be for His mercy! How eager to be found in Christ! And loving our neighbor means calling him to repentance and inviting him to God's righteousness revealed in Christ—inviting him to rejoice in God's mercy as a vessel of mercy.

For further consideration: “Righteously Given Up to Godless Feelings, Choices, and Thoughts”—available at hpwl.org/sa220615mws

Of the 22 sins listed in v29–31, to which are you most prone? What do you deserve? What does the Lord offer you instead? How?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us, for we have so often been unmindful of You and unthankful toward You. But even to such sinners as we are, You offer Your own righteousness through faith in Christ. So give to us, by Your Spirit, to believe in Christ, to be forgiven of our sin, and to be righteous with His righteousness, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH51C “God, Be Merciful to Me”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 1 verses 16-32. These are God's words. For, I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God to Salvation. For everyone who believes For the Jew first. And also, for the Greek, for in it, the righteousness of God is revealed from Faith to Faith.

As it is written, the just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from Against All ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Because what may be known of God is Manifest in them. For God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made.

Even his eternal power and godhead. So that they are without excuse. Because although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God. Nor we're thankful. But became futile in their thoughts. And their foolish Hearts were darkened. Professing, to be wise. They became fools. And changed the glory of the incorruptible.

God, into an image made like corruptible, man. And birds and four-footed, animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up. To uncleanness. And the lusts of their hearts to dishonor their bodies among themselves. Who exchanged the truth of God for the LIE. And worshiped and served the creature.

Rather than the Creator. Who is blessed forever? Amen. For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged, the natural use for what is against nature. 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. They do the penalty of their error, which was due. 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. Being filled with all unrighteousness.

Sexual immorality. Wickedness. Covetousness. Maliciousness. Full of Envy. Murder. Strife. Deceit. Evil mindedness. They are Whispers. Back biters. Haters of God. Violent. Proud. Posters. Inventors of evil things. Disobedient to parents. Undiscerning. Untrustworthy. Unloving. Unforgiving. Unmerciful. Who knowing the righteous Judgment of God. That those who practice, such things are deserving of death.

Not only do the same. But also a proof. Of those who practice them.

And in the sense, this reading of God's inspired, Inerrant. We Rejoice that he uses. To bring us to Faith. To make us. Holy To preserve us. And to bring us at last into the inheritance that Christ has won for us. And that has become ours in him.

So since there isn't a midweek sermon, Next week, really since we're not continuing the series in Romans. Uh, we're going back in the Book of Romans, almost to the very beginning. Because this past week, the mayor of The city of Columbia declared. To be pride month. Uh, joining. Many people in our nation and even in many of the what purport to be churches.

Who as verse 32 says, Not only do the same, but also approve. Of those who practice them. And so those who think that they are being really existential, and independent, Are really just fulfilling God's word. Because this is exactly what he said. The display of his wrath. Against the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men would look like, These particular sentence and this particular approval.

And so man, and his pride is humiliated before God Because he told us that this is what would be done. By those who suppress the truth, in unrighteousness and Refused to know him. And we're looking, especially at verses 24, through 32. In which it gives us these three. Givings up.

Verse 24. God gave them up to uncleanness. Verse 26. God gave them up to our passions. Verse 28, same language in the original. A little bit different in our English version. God gave them over To a debased mind. And in these three givings up, we are to see. That to which the Lord gives us over.

So that we may see, The great mercy of the Gospel. We begin reading it verse 16 so that we would see that the reason that Paul when he comes to Rome who earlier in the chapter he has said their church is already famous for their faith and he's eager to meet them.

And not only is he going to edify them, but he's looking forward to their edifying him. And as such an established and mature and famous Church, what's he gonna do? He's going to preach the gospel? So it's not just unbelievers or even new Christians that need to hear the gospel.

It's the most mature Christians, why? Why would he be unashamed to preach the gospel? Uh, many of people memorize that verse and they say, I'm going to be unashamed before the world, to preach the gospel, and well, we should, but the Apostle was actually saying, I'm going to be unashamed before Advanced Christians to preach the gospel.

Because you never get past the gospel. The gospel is the power of God for salvation, which keeps giving his righteousness to us, not just from faith when When we don't have it yet and he gives us faith and we get counted righteousness in Jesus but also for Faith by faith from start to finish.

So that's what Christians need to hear, too. And mature Christians need deer too. Is the gospel. He says in it, the righteousness of God is revealed. Well, why do we need to have the righteousness of God revealed to us in Jesus in his gospel? Because the wrath of God has already been revealed against us.

And so, When we see this happening. It gives us opportunity for us to remember. That even if we are not given up to particularly the vile, passions in verses 26 and 27. We have been in the past. Given up to various sins in this list of 22, different sins.

And of course, the list isn't exhaustive, says, filled with all unrighteousness in verse 29. About how many of us have difficulty still? With pride or boasting in our hearts. How many of us have difficulty with Disobedience to parents? How many of us have difficulty with being undiscerning? Or unforgiving.

Or any one of these 22 things so that we can see. That if we have come into Christ Jesus, and we have died to our sin and risen again. In him to walk in newness of life, and these things are no longer our masters These things are things that are left over from a former Nature because God's given us a new nature in Christ.

We say Behold. How God? And his great Mercy. Has delivered me from the Wrath that I no longer identify myself. With these sins. But I identify myself with God as created in His image. I identify myself with Christ as United to him and renewed into the image of God.

And not just, Once given a new nature. But even our catechism question. What is sanctification? The work of God's free. Grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God. So that we see the great gospel, Mercy of God. That he is changing how we think and he's changing how we feel.

He's changing how we choose that his spirit is making us more, and more like Jesus. And we shall at last be conformed entirely to Christ. And we say this is all Mercy. Because I began dead in sin, I began suppressing the truth and unrighteousness. I began under the Wrath.

And given over as a slave to my sin. And it's only the mercy of God in the gospel. That has been shown to me. Well then this is the great travesty Of so-called pride month. Indeed, it is proud and it is boastful and it celebrates abominable sin. And all of that.

Horrendous. And provokes even further God's Wrath. But it itself is a display of God's Wrath. And what it does is rather than saying, Look at how Wicked and irrational and self-destructive. This is look at how Dreadful it is that we are under God's Wrath. Look at how wonderful God's mercy is, that is righteousness for Sinners.

Instead, has been revealed in the gospel, it says, Pride month instead says, we love the sin. And it hates those who have not heard the gospel. Because it reaches a false gospel. It preaches, that's your identity. And that's good. And that's to be celebrated. We approve of you and you should approve of yourself.

And it keeps men women children. Enslaved to their sin. Instead of announcing them, the announcing to them. The gospel of which the Apostle was unashamed. And so we have this series of the three givings up and then we have As it were the stage four of the cancer. He gave them up, he gave them up, he gave them up and then the end stage, they approve of those who do stage.

First, he gave them up to the uncleanness. Of their hearts. Um, uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts verses 24 and 25. This is very intentional language related to the

cleanliness code that we Uh, recently heard preached when we were going through Leviticus It keeps men from being able to draw near to God.

That means that when they're in God's presence. Um, they are disregarding him as Holy and are deserving of the fire. Uh, just like when nadab and abayu came and they didn't come in the way that God had said they came with unauthorized worship. The fire of God, rather than the consuming, the sacrifice consumed then Uh, and so also, we had the cleanliness code that kept those.

Um, Who were unclean from coming near God? But that was never about uh, whether you know, whatever the substance was that had. Made you unclean touching the dead body or a bodily fluid or the carcass of an animal or Um, or whatever. Uh, the ceremonial uncleanness was. It was a reminder.

That all sin is uncleanness. And that we must be cleansed in order to draw near to God. Well, giving them up to uncleanness and the lusts of their hearts. So now, instead of being ruled by Um, By God's word which tells us that we were made by him and we were made for him, we believe the lie.

Instead of the truth verse 25, they exchanged the truth of God. That God is the creator of all things, and especially the creator of man. And so, we exist to image him according to his word. For the LIE, what was the LIE? What was the lie that deceived Eve?

Well, she wasn't Eve, yet the woman You can be like, God. And so, the very first part of being given up, To unclean this and the loss of our hearts is to think that we are Created, as it were. By ourselves that we can determine our own identity and our own purpose.

And we are created for ourselves. To enjoy ourselves. And therefore to do so according to our own ideas and our own laws and in all those ways we become like God and quote unquote, knowing good and evil. Not that, you know what good is and you know what evil is, but God knows good and evil because he defines what is good by that which is according to his character.

And he defines what is evil by that, which is against his character. Well, the lie was that you can Define what's good for you. We actually use this language. Now, your truth people say As if you can Define what is good for you, according to what you think and feel And what is evil for you.

As that which was against what you think and feel. And so you may love them and tell them the truth and they'll say, you are a hater. For you are a fearer. Please phobic or hateful. What are they doing? They're exchanging the truth of God for the LIE. And sadly, our bodies, which were created.

For serving the lord. For enjoying his goodness to us, and glorifying him. In our service of him. If we exchange the truth of God for the LIE, Everything. Our body does is dishonorable. So we have to see the first stage in verse 24 to 25 as the first stage and not get Not run too quickly into verses 26 and 27.

Because, It's not just the perversions the verses 26 and 27 described that are the dishonoring of our bodies, your body. Is marvelous and glorious and good because it was designed for an image Bearer to image god with Anytime you use? Such a body, such eyes. To look at things sinfully.

So a mind to think sinfully hands to touch sinfully Tongues to taste sinfully ears to ear sinfully tongues to speak. Sinfully What are we? We're dishonoring our bodies. And receiving. Uh, in ourselves. And the right penalty for, Not knowing god. So that's the stage one uncleanness and the loss of their hearts stage.

Two vile passions. Disgraceful emotions. So not only is man's will evil so that whatever he does with his body dishonors him even his affections become corrupted and evil. Do not listen to your emotions. Do not follow your heart. Your heart, your emotions are liars. And one of the things that we deserve, one of the things that is a symptom of of not being in Christ, is when our feelings operate, contrary not only to God's law but now in verses 26 and 7.

Even to Nature. They say. We're just celebrating love. Well, not all things that are called. Love. Not all of the affections of the heart going out, to things are good. There's love that, God forbids. Says, do not love the world. Do not love sin. And so, You may have these warm affections towards others.

But you must not trust your affections. And in this case, God gives them over. To these vile passions. Uh, women. Exchanging, the Natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also, men leaving the natural use of of the woman burned in their lust for one another. And so, the perversion.

Instead of one man covenanted with one woman. Is a display of God's Wrath. It doesn't just provoke God to anger. It shows that he is full of holy Fury against our sin. Adultery is wicked. Fornication is wicked. But this particular, Per version that he gives people up to. It's even contrary to Nature.

It's irrational, it's in its design. It loses all of the benefits. Of the design of the man and the design of the woman and the design of marriage. It makes no physical sense. It is. For Generations and households and societies literally suicidal. And yet it gets called love. And so you can see just by the irrationality of it.

How the only way? People could be given over even to such emotions. Let alone to such actions. As if it was really a judgment from God. To give us over. To our sin. Well, that's stage two. The third giving up in verses 28 to 31 or sort of to the end of the chapter.

Uh, the third giving up in verses 28 to 31 is being given over to a debased mind. To do those things which are not fitting. A dysfunctional mind. We didn't want to know God. So he said as even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.

And that goes along with the suppressing, the truth and unrighteousness. Uh, Verse 18 and they're refusing to know God. Verses 19. Uh, 23 even as they did not like to retain God and their knowledge verse 28. God gave them over to a debased mind. To do those things which are not fitting being filled, With all unrighteousness.

And here's where we see. That, although not contrary to Nature in the same way. As the perversions of woman with woman, her man with man Still. The list of the list of the 22 sins. Are all things that are not fitting, they're all harmful. What happens when, when people are unforgiving, one another, with one another What happens when we're gossips or backbiters?

What happens when children disobey their parents? What happens when any of God's good design for us. Is disobeyed. Doesn't it harm us? Doesn't it make it unpleasant and miserable to live with one another to live with ourselves? Doesn't it keep us from from flourishing and being productive and honoring and glorifying and even enjoying God.

But without the example in verses 26 and 27. Of the perversions. We are much slower, much less likely. To recognize how irrational all sin is. How self-destructive all sin is? And so it's actually a mercy of God. To display his wrath. If by such display, he gives us. To see also the revelation of his gospel in Christ.

But then there's that end stage after the list. Of the 22. It's not just. Pride over. Verses 26 and 27. But justifying. All of those 22 things. And of course, Olsen not just Uh, those 22 things and versus 29-31. And you know, all of these things are Justified. All these things are Justified in the heart of every sinner who wants to feel Vindicated for his sin.

But even in the society, that Pushed down on the knowledge of God. Even in a society, that used to be marked. By at least Christian morality. And did have many Believers in it, and many faithful churches in it. As it has departed from. The gospel is departed, from Christ.

Departed from the Lord departed from his word. Everything in this list is actually Justified. By the, by the society, by the culture. And so you get to the end stage. Of this cancer to, which God has given us over. Not only do the same says, verse 32. They know.

That these things deserve death, but they're doing the same. Just like they know God and they push down on the knowledge of God. They don't want to acknowledge Him. Although it's too obvious. And so you have to spend effort to suppress that truth in unrighteousness. Back in verse 18.

Everyone also knows within themselves. This is why guilty consciences feel guilty. This is why people corrupt their consciences. With false philosophy and Theology and and morality so that they no longer have to feel guilty anymore. They never can quite get away from it because God has put it in.

And so they know the righteous Judgment of God that those who practice such things. Are deserving of death. But here's the end stage, not only do they do them. But they also approve. Of those who practice them.

So, the display of God's Wrath and the approving. Of our sin is the backdrop for the gospel, displaying God's righteousness. For Sinners. Not only has he had wrath against our sin. He also reveals His righteousness for us in Jesus, if we would just believe in him. He laughs and saves.

Sinners. And so there's nothing more hateful. Than to tell ourselves that sin is permissible is okay. Or even good. And there's nothing more hateful to someone else. Especially if you can see their sin and they can't. To try to normalize it for them. To try to make them. Feel better about it.

To tell them that their sin is, okay, or even To celebrate it. Loving our neighbor. Means doing with him what God has done with us. Calling to him to repentance. And announcing to him God's righteousness, freely offered, and the Lord Jesus Christ. God's forgiveness. Entire. Removal of his wrath.

As he's going to say in chapter 3, the propitiation Uh, that Jesus was displayed as Announcing to them or announcing to yourself as you need. To repent and believe. And the Lord Jesus Christ. God has patiently. Endured Chapter 9 says, Vessels of Wrath prepared for Destruction. Precisely because he is making known the riches of his glory.

And vessels of Mercy. Prepared beforehand, for Glory. So we are to see the glory of God. In his Mercy over against us. But certainly not. By giving approval. Or acceptance of sin. It's nothing more hateful. To a sinner than that. Let's pray. Lord, forgive us our sin and help us Lord to see it as you do.

To hate our own sin as you hate it. To. Committing sin and especially. Um, being trapped in it and bound by it and ruled by it. A display of your righteous wrath. But we thank you that you have revealed not only your wrath against our sin. But especially you have revealed.

Your righteousness offered to us in Grace and mercy. In Jesus Christ. And so whether with ourselves Lord, or With others, we pray that you Not give us over to a debased mind. But give us over to Minds in which You have caused the light of the knowledge of your glory.

To shine in the face of Jesus Christ. So that the veil would be removed so that our minds and hearts would function correctly, That we might be. Worshipers of you and grateful to you. That we might see our bodies as belonging to you. Belonging to Christ. To be used honorably.

According to the purpose of Our body's creation, according to the purpose. Of our Redemption. And so help us Lord in the rest of this day. To offer our bodies to you, as living sacrifices Don't let us be conformed. To the pattern of this world, but Grant that. We would be transformed.

By the renewing of our minds. Which we have just heard from your word is a great Mercy. And we praise you for you are greatly merciful. Now, display your character, we pray. By showing us this Mercy, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.