

## The Downward Spiral of Sin, without hindrance, always leads to Death

11/30/2014 – Context: Romans 1:16-32 – with focus on 1:26-27

We saw last week that the **Suppression of TRUTH** is at the **ROOT of SIN**. Our sinful behaviors all stem from our sinful nature which **naturally suppresses truth**, especially the Truth about God (the review of last week's lesson is on the back).

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** → when people **REJECT the LOVE of the TRUTH** →

God will send them a Strong **DELUSION** so that they will believe the **LIE**.

**Evolution** that is taught in schools from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, is **based upon Suppressing the Truth in unrighteousness**. If they let the students know about all the fossils that are found containing blood cells, DNA, connective tissue, real bone, and other kinds of things like that, those facts would disprove evolution along with its millions and billions of years, etc. So, these facts are kept from the students in public schools because their sinful agenda of deception.

Paul is Exposing SIN in Romans 1:18-32 ... the step-by-step, increasing sinfulness of humans when there is **nothing confronting sin**, when we are turning a blind eye, appeasing it, placating it, compromising with it ... if you give SIN an inch it will take a mile. It is addictive, seductive, deceptive, and powerful. SIN is the **MOST Powerful Force in the Universe...** **ONLY God is stronger and more powerful.**

We ended last week with Suppression of the Truth in unrighteousness leads sinful humans to: (verse 24-25)

1. Dis**HONOR** their bodies (early stages of dishonor before the next stages take effect)
2. Exchange **the Truth** for the **LIE**

In verse 24 it says that "... **God also gave them up to ...**"

This phrase "**God gave them up to**" occurs 2 more times in this passage (Romans 1:16-32)

**1<sup>st</sup> STAGE of CORRUPTION & REBELLION OF SOCIETY → IDOLATRY** (replacing God with...)  
(it is erroneously called "freedom" but always leads to addiction and bondage to sin)

**2<sup>nd</sup> STAGE of CORRUPTION & REBELLION OF SOCIETY → IMMORALITY** (Adultery, Fornication, etc.)  
(it is erroneously called "freedom" but always leads to addiction and bondage to sin)

This week we will look at the **next Predicable stage** in the continuation of the **Downward Spiral** toward More **HARDNESS** of Heart and More Sinful Behaviors.

**The 3rd STAGE of CORRUPTION & REBELLION OF SOCIETY ... SEXUAL PERVERSION**

**Verses 26-27** ... What kinds of "**passions**" did **God give them up to**?

How does this relate to verse 24 ("uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, **dishonoring their bodies...**")?

**What we see in vs. 24 is the first "risky" stage of stepping out of the norm: adultery, fornication, living together..**

How is what is described in verses 26-27 **worse** than verse 24?

**This is the Next Stage, the UNNATURAL STAGE ... going against what is Sexually Normal, the Normal Function of Body Parts of what their original design was created for, etc.**

How does this relate to what we are seeing in the Western World regarding certain perversions of "marriage"? (obvious discussion... homosexual marriage ... see Proverbs 22:28 & 23:10 – Gen. 2:24 & Matt. 19:5 Eph. 5:31 – the first **INSTITUTION Created by God AFTER He created Adam was Marriage/Family – Image of God is seen in marriage/family**)

Why is this 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of Corruption within a society a **PREDICTABLE "Next Step"**?

(Prov. 29:18 ... cast off restraints is in stages... first "marriage" boundaries are destroyed: fornications, adultery, living together ... but homosexual behavior is still frowned upon. Next it doesn't matter anymore and accepted... everyone can do whatever as long as it doesn't affect me [truth: sin affects & infects others around us, always])

What "**appropriate PENALTY of their error**" is God talking about in verse 27?

**This seems to indicate some effect inside their bodies ... a penalty that they should rightfully "get" ... it might be a disease or some change that deeply affects them. There are always Consequences to sinful behaviors. Sin wants you to think that there are No Consequences, but God says there always are some.**

(front)

Review from last week

**When God's TRUTH is SUPPRESSED ... it causes us to:**

1. **Not Honor Him as GOD** (Worship, Adoration, Surrender, Obedience, etc.)  
A little bit, here and a little bit there ... this is tolerated as being loving toward other people's choices ... and progressively this IGNORING of God, becomes being AGAINST God – we don't want to pressure anyone and confront anyone with the Truth ... and the deceitfulness of sin and of our old sinful flesh deceives us into believing we are being nice, kind and loving ... (verse 21)
2. **Not Give Him Thanks** ... we are NOT Grateful to Him for LIFE, etc.  
Some sort of degree of bitterness toward God. Thinking God owes us something. We become entitled. We no longer live to Please God, no longer want to Have God in our Minds, in our thoughts ... we become angry with God because we feel God must do things our way ... He is "our servant" and He works for us... we forget that we are His creations, not the other way around.  
So, because God doesn't do things that we want, or we don't like the way He does things, or He doesn't give us what we want, when we want it ... we no longer want God at all ... the next stage is the natural progression ... (verse 21)
3. **Become Arrogant**, Entitled, Boastful, Prideful ... thinking we are WISE but really we are fools (vs. 22)
4. **Worship anything other than God - IDOLATRY** – fans, fanatics, the worship of things, hobbies, celebrities, etc. (we don't have to call them gods... or idols, but in essence that is how we treat them)  
Some folks make up a god in their minds that approves of their sinful, ungodly lifestyles and break God's Commandments 1 & 2 (vs. 23) [today this includes **evolution** origins, we came from animals]  
**1<sup>st</sup> STAGE of CORRUPTION & REBELLION OF SOCIETY → IDOLATRY**
5. **Abandon God's Moral Values** that relate to how we use our **bodies** – start using our bodies in sinful ways and think it is normal and OK (we are born this way ... so ... ) this causes us to be in bondage, bound up in sin ... addictive, etc.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> STAGE of CORRUPTION & REBELLION OF SOCIETY → IMMORALITY (Adultery, Fornication, etc...)**
6. **Reject Common Sense Truth of Reality and Exchange it for a "convenient" LIE** ... and we end up serving created things instead of our Creator ... sad state of being.  
This is **Bondage to LIES and loving it**. They would rather **believe the LIE**, because the Alternative means that they **would be accountable to a Holy and Righteous God** who hates and judges sin.

This is a **Natural Downward Progression** of Mankind as Sinfulness is embraced, placated, appeased, etc... it will this specific – step-by-step progression, always... it is a **Predictive Model**. This happens when Sin is appeased, "we turn the other way", we tolerate sinful behaviors, choices, beliefs... when sin is allowed to take its natural course from generation to generation ... it will become worse and worse with each decade, each generation until ... **the end-game**.

What Paul is reminding us here, is how all of mankind **IS**, since the time Adam and Eve sinned, until now, societies at large have become so infected with Sin and move in this **similar pattern of step-by-step** progression of a downward spiral and will end of destroying themselves, being taken over by another country or nation... or be destroyed by God's Judgment of some sort (think Noah's Flood, think Babylonian Captivity of Israel, think the demise of the ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman empires... etc.)

Paul is describing these are the kinds of sinful people **we are called to** explain the Gospel to. We are going to meet folks at **various stages of rebellion of being God's enemy**. Depending on how far sin has gone into a society at large will be the hardness of heart of most of the individuals of that society we are seeking to reach with the Gospel. All sinful folks, no matter who they are, are somewhere in these stages of bondage and deception. And, knowing this helps us to help them out of their hardness and blindness into the life and light of Jesus Christ.

We **MUST** help people see that they are sinners **FIRST** ... **BEFORE** we help them understand GOD'S LOVE Revealed in Jesus Christ. Just saying that God Loves them is utter foolishness to them in their state of mind and heart. Once they understand the God Loves them **while** they are sinners and Christ **died for them while they were sinners** (Rom. 5:8)... that is God's Goodness that leads them to repentance (Rom. 2:4). God's Righteousness, God's Wrath, God's Judgment is because of our **SIN**. The sinner must embrace & believe this **FIRST**, then the Understanding of God's LOVE makes sense. Christ died for my **SINS** - it makes sense.

HUMILITY must come **first** because God opposes the Proud but gives Grace to the Humble (Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)

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