

“The Wrath of God Revealed, Conclusion”  
(Romans 1:18-32)

I. Introduction.

- A. We have seen what happens when men do not honor God as God or give Him thanks.
  - 1. First, God gives them over to their lusts, especially sexual lusts.
  - 2. Second, He gives them over to unnatural lusts.
  - 3. Sin is a slippery slope. It’s like a ski jump – once the gate opens – and the Lord is the only One holding it closed – a person goes further and faster into sin. He can’t stop himself. The only One who can is Christ.
  - 4. But sin is a slippery slope for the Christian as well. One step often leads to another. But thankfully, there is a ledge to stop our fall, where there isn’t for the unbeliever.
  
- B. This morning, we’ll see the last step – the final giving over – and what happens when the Lord does this – men give themselves to every sin.

II. Sermon.

- A. If God gives men over in judgment and they still will not honor Him, He will finally give them over to a depraved mind.
  - 1. This may be the same as committing the unpardonable sin.
    - a. The Spirit of God is the only One who keeps men from committing the sins they might otherwise commit.
    - b. He softens the heart. He holds back the sin. He keeps them from being as bad as they can be.
    - c. But the Bible tells us that there is a limit to God’s patience – His Spirit will not always strive with men (Gen. 6:3). The author to the Hebrews tells us that there are cases where it is impossible to bring a man to repentance.
    - d. If they continue to resist Him and His truth, He gives them over to their sin, as we see here.
    - e. The worst sin is the unpardonable sin.
      - (i) When men commit this sin, there is no longer any hope.
      - (ii) The Bible seems to indicate that it might not just be the blaspheming of the Spirit in words, but can also be a continual resisting of the Spirit.
      - (iii) The results are the same in either case – there is no hope for them.
    - f. But we need to be comforted: no Christian can ever commit such a sin. The Lord won’t let His children do this or ever let them go.
    - g. But those in the world can and do commit it.
  - 2. There comes a time when God gives men entirely over to their sin. This appears to be the case here.
    - a. Here, God is said to give them over to a depraved mind.
    - b. This is what sin produces – depravity.
      - (i) The word means reprobate, worthless, corrupted.

- (ii) When God lets go of the sin of man, it takes over the heart, and turns the mind toward sin.
- (iii) The result is that all he can think of is sin, because that's all he wants.
- (iv) It's a terrible situation to be in – then all a person wants is that which will destroy him and will increase his damnation.
- (v) This may lead to God's giving them over eternally.
- (vi) All of these are very good reasons to repent of every sin. Sin destroys.

B. But now I want you to notice the nature of sin in the description that follows. Each of these could be a sermon in itself, but since there are twenty-one of them, I will explain them briefly to help us see what sin is like:

1. Paul says that sin is what is not proper, the things which should not be done. This is a good summary of sin – the things which should not be done.
  - a. Sin is unrighteousness: a general word for everything that is wrong.
  - b. Wickedness: a general word for everything that is evil.
  - c. Greed: covetousness, desire for gain.
  - d. Evil: another general term for wickedness.
  - e. Envy: jealousy when someone else does well.
  - f. Murder: the taking away of life unjustly.
  - g. Strife: discord, quarreling, rivalry.
  - h. Deceit: a word which means bait for fish, treachery, fraud.
  - i. Malice: meanness, doing evil for the sake of evil, spitefulness, hatred, delighting in harming others, or when they are hurt.
  - j. Gossip: a tale-bearer, speaking to others about things which are none of their business, passing on information to tear down someone in another's eyes.
  - k. Slander: telling lies to ruin someone's reputation.
  - l. Hatred of God: this is the essence of sin and self-explanatory.
  - m. Insolence: taking a superior attitude and insulting or mistreating others.
  - n. Arrogance: one who brags about his position and despises others.
  - o. Boastfulness: speaking big words about oneself, or figuratively, one whose mouth is too big for his body.
  - p. Inventing of evil: thinking up new ways to do wrong things.
  - q. Disobedience to parents: we may not think this to be so serious, but it received capital punishment; not for slight or one time infractions, but for consistent and willful disregard of authority and disobedience (Deu. 21:18-21).
  - r. Without understanding: unintelligent, or foolish; sin hides the truth; people won't have true knowledge, God takes it away.
  - s. Untrustworthy: covenant breaking, not keep promises.
  - t. Unloving: lacking natural affection, heartless.
  - u. Unmerciful: without compassion, pitiless.
2. Notice that these things are so strongly fixed in their hearts, that this is all they want to do. Their hearts are filled with these things.
  - a. They not only do these things continually – or practice them – knowing that God requires the death penalty for them, they also give their whole-hearted approval to others who practice them.
  - b. They want more partners in crime.
  - c. This is the nature of the evil that is in the hearts of men.

### III. Application: Now how can this passage help us?

- A. We need to remember that everything God gives us is good.
  - 1. God has said it, so we need to know it.
  - 2. But why has He said it?
  
- B. First, it serves to remind us that God hates sin.
  - 1. God doesn't take these things lightly.
  - 2. This is the reason His wrath is coming.
  - 3. If He doesn't take it lightly, neither should we.
  
- C. Second, it helps us to understand why God hates sin.
  - 1. It is the opposite of everything that is good.
  - 2. Look at this list. Is that what you want to be like?
    - a. I hope it isn't.
    - b. God hates everyone of these sins – they are all against His holy nature.
    - c. The Lord teaches us here to hate these things as well.
  
- D. Thirdly, it helps us to understand more the grace of God.
  - 1. The tendency to do every one of these things was in each one of our hearts and still is, but God still loved us and now loves us.
    - a. God loved us from all eternity, even knowing that apart from Him, this is what we would be like.
    - b. And even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, God sent His Son to die for us, to wash away our sins.
    - c. When we were His enemies, He sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts to quicken us to life, and to subdue, weaken and kill that sin.
    - d. Love can only be measured by the distance between the subject and the object of love, and in this case, the distance was infinite.
    - e. God is infinitely holy. We were infinitely hateful. But His infinite love closed the gap, by sending His precious Son.
  - 2. As we understand better our own nature apart from Christ, it should make us more thankful for the mercies of God.
  - 3. And it should stir us up to put off these sins and to put on that which God loves the most: the beauty of a life adorned with holiness.
  
- E. But lastly, this helps us better to understand unbelievers and their need for the Savior.
  - 1. Even though God restrains this sin, it's still there.
  - 2. As long as it's there, people will hate God and God them.
  - 3. So even though the unbeliever very often seems like a nice person, in their hearts, they aren't. They will still perish apart from Christ.
    - a. Example: the man going to the missionary field meeting people from different religions.
    - b. Even though they didn't seem bad, they were.
    - c. It's only God's restraint on sin that makes them seem good.

4. We need to remember to pray for them and reach out to them with the Gospel, because they will perish without it. We need, as we saw last week, to look for those open doors of opportunity. Amen.