



7/10/25

*When I think of Romans 1, today's passage is the part that comes to mind. But now, after studying everything that leads up to these verses, I see that there's so much more to understand in context. The phrase, "God gave them up," comes after Paul speaks of the beauty of the gospel and the obvious truth of His existence. Truly, if by seeing His glory displayed in the heavens and on the earth in all that He has made doesn't at least spark a person's curiosity to know the One who can be known, what else is there for Him to do BUT to give that person over to his desires? I'm getting ahead of myself... what does the passage say? Let's read on to see...*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Romans 1:24-32*

*Vs. 24-25 ~ "Therefore..." Because God made the truth of who He is obvious through His creation, and people refused to acknowledge Him or honor Him or thank Him, but instead, "exchanged the glory of God for images...", "God gave them up." What did He give them up to? The lusts of their hearts... their selfish passions... their urges based on their feelings.*

*Ummm... I see this draw to give in to selfish desires in me! Only by the grace of God and His Spirit in me am I able to overcome!!! The only difference between them and me is that I have put my faith in the One who is able to save me and they haven't. I know for me, feeling the emptiness of my selfish passions is what brought me to truly surrender to Jesus... I see that He isn't abandoning us in the giving over... He's allowing us to feel the emptiness... so that some will turn to Him for help and salvation.*

*What is at the end of the lusts of unrepentant hearts? Romans 6:19 says that when someone presents himself as a slave to impurity and to lawlessness, it leads to MORE lawlessness. It always snowballs into deeper sin. According to this passage, it snowballs into...*

- *Impurity... a loss of moral integrity*
- *Dishonoring of their own bodies between each other... and calling it good even though nothing good comes from it*

*Why? Because "they exchange the truth for a lie and worship AND SERVE the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever." They try to cover their lie by calling it "my truth." But there is only one truth... and the One who IS truth is the One who DEFINES truth. They worship the lie and the creature just as the Israelites worshiped a golden calf... so that they could lie to themselves and give themselves permission to "sit down and eat and drink and rise up to play" (Exodus 32:6). Let me not miss this... the lusts of the flesh do not serve the person, the person serves the lusts of the flesh. They take control over the person.*

*How many times does someone do something that devastates a relationship and say, "I don't know WHY I did it!" The answer is... by giving in to the passions of the flesh, they worshiped the passions and became their voluntary slave. I pray that I will stand on what's true with You, Father. I praise You that I am sealed by the Holy Spirit and I will never be given over to my passions, but I see that same lure of my flesh trying to draw me away from You all the time. Please help me to keep running to You for help. You never turn anyone away who cries to You for help.*

*Vs. 26-27 ~ Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie, "God gave them up to dishonorable passions." These two verses are so real in our culture that anyone who speaks of it as dishonorable is judged as the dishonorable one. But this is where I have to decide... Will I stand for what God says, or will I exchange the truth for a lie? God says the women exchanged natural relations... sexual relations... for what is contrary to nature. Men did the same, consumed with sexual passions for one another, inflamed by their desire, receiving the penalty, whatever it is, that they are bringing on themselves.*

*Who decides what is contrary to nature? The designer. Who designed us? The Lord. "For You formed my inward parts. You knit me together in my mother's womb... My frame was not hidden from You when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance..." (Psalm 139:13-16).*

*I think this is so hard for those who give themselves up to this kind of passion. There are so many arguments about where it originated in them. The hardest part is that, for many of them, repenting and turning to the Lord means a life of celibacy. Not for all... I read Rosaria Butterfield's testimony. She was a lesbian activist for gay rights. She ended up surrendering her heart to the Lord and is now married to a pastor and has several kids with him. I know her testimony has helped a lot of people.*

*I also heard the testimony of a man who became a Christian and God did not change his attraction to men. So he chose to be celibate in honor of the Lord. He said when people ask him, "How can you be okay with that? Aren't you lonely?" His answer is, "If you think that, your God is too small. God surrounds me with godly people who support and love me. And after all*

*Jesus did for me, this is worth it."*

*I have had people ask me, "Will I go to hell if I am gay?" My answer is, "Being a homosexual does not send you to hell. Not putting your faith in Jesus is what brings condemnation. If I were to tell you that homosexuality is wrong and you decide to turn from it, but you never confess Jesus as Lord, you still die without Him. Turn to Him first. He will give you the strength to turn from homosexuality." I know I would be massively judged by the world for this. But I have to stay true to what God's word says... and still love ALL people because Jesus died for the WHOLE world.*

*Vs. 28-32 ~ Here's what brings ANYONE to impurity and lawlessness... "They did not see fit to acknowledge God." They refused to know Him personally and experientially in relationship with Him. They refused to ADMIT their need for Him, BELIEVE that Jesus died and rose again, and CONFESS Jesus as LORD... Master. And so, "God gave them up to a depraved mind to do things that completely go against the character of God, our Creator." Let me just acknowledge here that this list is considered the worst of the worst... more evil than the verses about homosexuality that came before it. And some of this is often what we in the church accept as "personality." O Lord, purify our hearts!!!*

*This is what ought NOT to be done... I'm going to only speak to the ones I have struggled with... AS A BELIEVER! O Lord, please forgive me!!!*

- *All manner of unrighteousness... loving what God hates and hating what God loves*
- *Evil*
- *Covetousness... greed, the desire for more, never being satisfied with what God has given*
- *Malice*
- *Envy... jealous, feeling ill will toward others because they have what I don't*
- *Murder*
- *Strife... contention that fractures fellowship*
- *Deceit... manipulation and telling partial truths*
- *Maliciousness*
- *Gossip... hurting someone else's character by talking behind their back*
- *Slander... speaking badly about others*
- *Haters of God*
- *Boastful... arrogant, lashing out at others and damaging relationships*
- *Inventors of evil*
- *Disobedient to parents*
- *Foolish... making rash decisions*
- *Faithless... being untrustworthy especially to the Lord*
- *Heartless... hard hearted toward some, without affection*
- *Ruthless*

*Yikes! These are some seriously damaging things!!! It is because of these things that Jesus came to die... to set us free from them! But those who refuse Jesus WILL find themselves committing at least some of these violations. And they will not only dishonor God by practicing these things, they will encourage others to practice them as well.*

*It is absolutely impossible to refrain from doing these things without the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. To be filled with the Spirit is to grow so close to God, that instead of doing the things that dishonor Him, I do the exact opposite! I honor Him with...*

- *Purity*
- *Honoring my body as a temple of the Holy Spirit*
- *Being true to my husband in marriage*
- *Righteousness that He's given me as a free gift through faith in Jesus*
- *Holiness*
- *Contentment*
- *Care*
- *Rejoicing with those who rejoice*
- *Building up, not tearing down*
- *Pursuing peace*
- *Being truthful*
- *Pursuing unity*
- *Letting no corrupting words come out of my mouth, but only what is useful for building up*
- *Speaking well of others*
- *Loving God*
- *Humility*
- *Following truth*
- *Obedient to the Lord, my Father... and to parents*
- *Wisdom in the Lord*
- *Faithfulness*
- *Tender affection*
- *Giving grace*

*O Lord, I see that it is only through Your power and grace at work in my life that I can honor You. This is the power of the gospel! I pray that I will stay true to You!!! Unashamed!!!*