

CHRISTIANITY IN TROUBLED TIMES

“You Can Go Your Own Way”

Scripture Reading: ROMANS 1:24-32

-) **SLIDE 7-9**. Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 10**. Today’s message is titled, “*Go Your Own Way*.”
-) We are living in troubled times. The USA has become a substitute society. We have substituted good for evil and evil for good. We have suppressed the truth in unrighteousness with our views on abortion, sex, gender, government, and all the other Commandments we have violated. No one is held accountable anymore for their evil actions.
-) I’m convinced that God’s wrath is being unleashed on this country. And the bad news is that those of us who may be Christian and obedient to the Word of God, will suffer this wrath just like everyone else. Just like the Israelites who were obedient in 722BC and 575BC still got exiled with all the bad apples who were doing evil in the sight of the Lord.
-) ROMANS 1:18 tells us that God’s wrath is unleashed from heaven on those who suppress the truth. If America is suppressing the truth, what will this wrath look like? I know. The corona virus pandemic is God’s judgment on us. No.
-) Let’s look at the different types of wrath we see God exhibiting in His Word.
-) **SLIDE 11**. There is **ETERNAL WRATH**. Eternal wrath is the punishment that God brings upon unbelieving sinners forever in hell. In MATT 25:46 Jesus is telling His disciples about end times and eternity; about the sheep and the goats. In verse 46 Jesus says this: “*Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*”

-) **SLIDE 12.** There is **ESCHATOLOGICAL WRATH.** Eschatological wrath is the wrath that God releases at the end of the world. You can read about this in MATT 24:4-28 and in the Book of REVELATION chapters 6 through 18. This is when there will be wars, earthquakes, famines, etc.
-) **SLIDE 13.** There is **CATAclysmic WRATH.** Cataclysmic wrath would be things like tsunamis, a volcano eruption, a hurricane, an earthquake, etc. I am not saying that each and every natural event like this is a form of God's wrath. But it is possible. In GENESIS 6-9 God sent an example of His cataclysmic wrath in the form of a flood that wiped out every human being except for Noah and his family.
-) **SLIDE 14.** There is **CONSEQUENTIAL WRATH.** Consequential wrath is the result of what we sow and reap. If you live a certain lifestyle, you may be setting yourself up to certain forces that will produce judgment. One's laziness and gluttony could lead them into serious health problems. One's greed could lead them into financial woes and a gambling addiction. One's envy could lead them into a deadly confrontation with a jealous spouse. One's lust and sexual promiscuity could lead them into contracting a venereal disease or aids.
-) Our ungodly actions do have consequences. GALATIANS 6:7,8 tells us this: *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."*
-) So those are four ways God can inflict His wrath on us. But there is a fifth type of wrath. It is similar to consequential wrath. This fifth type of wrath is the wrath described here in ROMANS 1:24-32. What type of wrath is that?
-) **SLIDE 15.** The wrath of abandonment. It's when God removes His restraining grace and lets us go our own way.

-) **SLIDE 16.** First, let's define restraining grace. Restraining grace is the grace God bestows upon all people which keeps them from not being as evil as they could be.
-) **SLIDE 17.** GotQuestions.org says this: "*If God did not restrain the evil that resides in the hearts of all men, hearts which are "deceitful and desperately wicked" (JER 17:9), humanity would have destroyed itself centuries ago.*"
-) So, I think you get the picture. You and I are not as bad as we could be. And the people out there are not as bad as they could be. But what happens when this grace is removed?
-) **SLIDE 18.** God removing His restraining grace isn't anything new. In MATT 15:14 Jesus tells His disciples about the Pharisees to let them alone. They are blind guides. And their unrestrained evil hearts nailed Jesus to the cross.
-) **SLIDE 19.** In ACTS 14:16 the apostle Paul is at Lystra and is says this to a group of people: "*In the generations gone by, He permitted all the nations to go their own ways.*" Why have nations fallen? Because God has allowed them to follow their own foolish hearts. He has abandoned them and allowed them to reap what they want to sow.
-) Let's follow this progress of abandonment. In verses 24, 26, and 28 we see that God gave them over. Three times. God gave them over. What does that mean?
-) It means that God has allowed a culture to follow the sinful choices that culture desires. God starts removing His restraining grace. It's not that God is causing people in that culture to sin. He can't do that. It is not within His nature. God is allowing a culture to be exactly what that culture wants to be.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Since Americans have chosen religion over relationship (v18-23), God has abandoned America to sexual impurity (v24). Isn't this what we began seeing in the 1950s and 1960s? A sexual revolution?

-) It was the beginning of the Playboy mentality and magazines that exploited sexuality. In the 1960s, it turned into free love and sex with whomever and whenever. 1967 was termed "*The Summer of Love.*" Mama's & Papa's.
-) So, what is the next step now that America has been turned over to sexual immorality? Verses 26 and 27.
-) **SLIDE 21.** We are turned over to degrading passions. Sound familiar? Does this sound like the LGBTQ movement? It's no longer a sexual revolution. Now it's a homosexual revolution. Men with men. Women with women. There's no more coming out of the closet. It's socially acceptable to be gay or lesbian. And now it is demanded that everyone agree with their lifestyle or you are a hater.
-) In verse 24 God turns a culture over to a sexual revolution. In verse 26 God turns a culture over to a homosexual revolution.
-) **SLIDE 22.** What is the third and final step? Verse 28. God turns a culture over to a depraved mind. Some Bible translations use the word "*reprobate mind*" or "*corrupt mind*" or "*debased mind.*"
-) A depraved mind is one that is worthless and useless—one that is not good for anything. Sound familiar? We have worthless and useless governing officials along with worthless and useless education systems along with worthless and useless parents who are all indoctrinating our children on how to make it through life being worthless and useless because none of them have any common sense to know the difference between right and wrong. That, folks, is depravity.
-) EX1. A person intentionally kills an unborn baby and does it for convenience sake? And then women and men parade around Washington wearing vagina hats and want us to jump on their bandwagon because it is a woman's right to choose. Whatever happened to the baby's rights?

-) EX2. A person can't get their gender right—they think they are a girl in a man's body or a man in a girl's body? And the federal government stands behind this and affirms this? And my taxpayer \$\$\$ pay for their depravity? Even dogs know the difference. Evolution?
-) EX3. A person spends 5 years in jail for turning back the odometer in a car, but crooked politicians can get away with murder and cover-ups and lying—with no consequences while other politicians are afraid to do anything about it?
-) EX4. Tim Tebow gets shunned from football for taking a knee on the sidelines because he is a Christian, but other players can take a knee in protest for their anti-American, anti-God causes without any repercussions?
-) Folks, we live in a society of depraved and reprobate minds. Minds that are filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.
-) This is the description of every society that has fallen. There are no exceptions. And now God is abandoning this country by removing His restraining grace and allowing the USA to go its own way. He is giving us over to a depraved, reprobate, worthless, and useless mind. And we will reap what we sow.
-) Today we looked at God's wrath of abandonment because of the depravity of the unbelieving world. Next Sunday we will look at how the church has fallen and contributed to the demise of this country.

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