

1. **INTRODUCTION:** Romans 1:24-31 **24 Therefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **26 For this reason God gave them up** to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** 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 the penalty of their error which was due. **28** 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; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, <sup>F3</sup> wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, <sup>F4</sup> unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Note the phrase, "God gave them up" = to give into the hands (of another); to deliver up one to custody, to be judged, condemned, punished, scourged, tormented, put to death.

In these verses, we have a summary of what people are like when they do not have the restraining influence of God in their lives. Even though you may know of unbelievers whose character doesn't seem to match this ugly picture, their lives are still under the restraining influence of God's grace in some way. It may be the lingering influence of a godly grandparent, or the general influence societal laws and norms that still benefit from the presence of Christianity's salt and light. The thrust of the message is this; evil's enslavement increases as God's influence decreases. This also applies to us as individual Christians. The more we leave God out of our daily experience, the more enslaved we will become to evil passions. This morning, we shall take a detailed look at what life is like without God's influence.

**I. FIRST CONSEQUENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT GOD** Romans 1:24 **Therefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts. Think of lust and uncleanness of the heart as weeds! **ILLUSTRATION:** Suppose you inherited 200 acres of productive farmland. Your grand dad gave it to you. The land he gave you produced 100,000 dollars a year for him in profit. That was a nice inheritance, right? Well, what if the grandson that inherited is lazy and irresponsible. He doesn't till, weed, fertilize or see the land. He may get a few crops for a year or two, but after a few years, the weeds will have completely taken over the property. These verses are a list of the weeds that will take over the society of mankind. Many of these weeds will take over your life and mine, should we choose to leave God out and not give him the glory due His Name!

**II. SECOND CONSEQUENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT GOD Romans 1:24b to dishonor their bodies among themselves,** God teaches the Christian that his/her body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are made in the image of God and God gave the greatest honor to our bodies by becoming the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. The Lord teaches us, therefore, to honor our bodies. 1Co 6:13, 1Co 6:18; 1Th 4:4; 2Ti 2:20-22

**III. THIRD CONSEQUENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT GOD Romans 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions** vile = dishonorable, shameful and/or disgraceful. Passions = pathos = an affliction of the mind, emotions. The consequence spelled out is perverted sexual behaviors between men and men and women and women. 1Co 6:9; Lev 18:22-28; 1Ti 1:10;

**THIS CONSEQUENCE INCLUDED AN ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCE: Romans 1:27 and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.** This what this penalty is, is not made clear. Some believe that it refers to a change that comes over the personality of those who participate in this sin. This change may be what is referred to as effeminate. **1 CORINTHIANS 6:9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, <sup>F14</sup> nor sodomites. Homosexual = effeminate in KJV = malakos = soft to the touch = a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man, or a man who submits his body to another man. Recent clinical studies show that homosexuals experience a change in their brains so that their brains respond to peneromes (smell of male hormones) the same way a woman's body responds.

**IV. FOURTH CONSEQUENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT GOD ROMANS 1:28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind,** "like" = dokimazo = to test, examine, prove, scrutinise (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals/ recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy. **Debase = reprobate in kjv = adokimas** = not standing the test, not approved, properly used of metals and coins. The judgment referred to is that men and women lose the ability to make proper judgments as to what is right, wrong, ugly, beautiful, genuine and counterfeit.