

Do you remember being a kid, I remember some of it. How many of you went through a stage where you knew more than your parents? I don't remember so much of that, but I do remember when my kids started thinking that way.

It started off with video games, they got good at some games that I had never played, and as they introduced me to them, I of course really struggled to grasp how to maneuver the characters in a beneficial way. They obliterated me in those games. They thought it was hilarious, they loved asking me to play with them, knowing it would be a blood bath every time.

Next was social media, this is something like those things you have to spend some time doing or you may never really understand it. I'll be honest, I have way more interesting things to do than try to keep up with the interesting things that everyone else is doing. Just as with the games my boys have mastered basically every social media platform out there. So, when they send me something and it doesn't take me directly to it, or I can't ever find it again, they find it to be the best thing in life to experience.

You know I do remember when I was younger, having the hardest time teaching my mom how to set the time on the VCR. I thought it was funny though to come in from playing outside to see my mom staring at the remote, doing her best to remember the steps I had showed her the last time the power flickered. Looking back that was pure evil to make something so trivial that ridiculous to adjust.

When it comes to the important things, things that I have explained to them over and over throughout the years. Things that have been proven to them that we know what we are talking about. Now they are old enough to make those choices for themselves, and choosing to do them their way. I have gotten to the point that they are just going to have to figure it out on their own, unfortunately the hard way. As parents we see what our kids are doing, things that we really wish they would not do. We know how they were taught, how they experienced these situations early in life, and what is expected of them. So, when they choose their way over what they know is right, it is hurtful isn't it?

Why do we as human beings choose to figure them out the hard way? How many mistakes could you have avoided by listening to your parents or grandparents? Have we always been this way, how many generations back would we have to go to find someone who didn't do it this way?

I think we have to understand that we did not start off like this, mankind did not begin in this "I want it my way" mind set. When God created Adam and Eve, they had the truth about God

and who He is. They did not have to wonder or question it, they did not have to be poured into by believers to get a base knowledge of God. They were united with Him from the start.

How did we get here then? They Adam and Eve choose to turn against Him. You may argue that they “she” was deceived and didn’t know better, but they did. They choose to rebel and for that mankind has fallen away from God ever since.

In today’s text we will see this very issue through Gods eyes. We will see God make the hard decision to let us have it our way. We will see His wrath which will grant you exactly what you desire. And the results of all these choices, His choice to love you and try to help you understand that He knows what is best for you, your choice to rebel, and finally His choice to let you have it your way.

Our three points for today’s message are:

Devolving life, Desecration of the body, Dissolution of the mind

Devolving life

Vs 24-25 Do we punish our kids for doing what is right, no, and neither does God. So why is He giving them over, because of their sinful desires. Let’s real quick examine how God set this whole thing up. He created everything, along with everyone, to worship Him and join Him one day in heaven. So, what changed, was it God absolutely not it was us.

Now let’s talk about evolution. What is the basis of evolution? It is the process by which animals, plants, and other living organisms are transformed into different forms by the accumulation of changes over successive generations. We view it as adapting to our environment, changes to be better equipped for success at our purpose. Do you think that humans today are better equipped to succeed at our purpose?

I guess first we should define our purpose, is it to make human life easier and less physical? Yes, I think we are better equipped for that. Or is our purpose it to create cures for diseases or illness, well we have done that...for the most part. Did you know that in the 1800’s medical experts recommended cigarettes for asthma, advertising they were safe for women and children. Cocaine was used as an anesthetic for eye and sinus surgeries, along with treatment for toothaches, lethargy, and depression. Maybe our purpose is to make a faster more efficient vehicle, yes, we have definitely succeeded at that one.

But what if our purpose is something much greater than all of those? One of the primary reasons we are here is to have a personal relationship with God and to worship and glorify

Him. This involves acknowledging Him as the Creator and having adoration for His greatness. With that as the standard, do you think we are better now than humans were back then?

Evolutionists would say that we are a much better creature, compared to the historical version. The Bible doesn't talk about the "evolution" of man. According to The Bible man is not evolving, but rather devolving. In other words, we are not getting better, we are getting worse. The downward spiral of mankind is easy to see. We have gotten much more intelligent which should not be a surprise as it was predicted in Danial 12:4 saying "But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase in knowledge".

It is not our intelligence that is in question here, it's more about our morals. Good morals are becoming more and more like common sense, they are not so common. The world including many Christians have little to no morals, they are only worried about what makes them happy with no regard or concern for others. How upside down do our morals have to be when it is legal to kill a baby, but you will be harassed for keeping your dog outside on a runner for too long? I have a hard time understanding how people who are much smarter than me cannot see how backwards things have gotten. It's like the smarter we get the harder it becomes to make good decisions.

There is one other major downside to our society becoming smarter, we are falling farther away from God. In a feeding frenzy for more and more knowledge and entertainment we look to social media, YouTube, educational platforms and much more all the while our souls are starving. We flood our minds with so much garbage, trying to live our best life but we overlook what we really need. See a life without God is so much less... its hopeless, helpless, and meaningless because our heart will never be truly fulfilled. I would not say that we are evolving, quite the contrary.

This devolving life brings us to the point where Gods righteous wrath and judgement gives us over to the evil sin our hearts desire. Through our decision to rebel against God, His decision allows us to experience the self-destructive result of our sin. We make a mistake when we think that it is God's *mercy* or *kindness* that allows us to continue in sin. It is actually His *wrath* that allows us to go on destroying ourselves with sin.

When we make that choice and God says "ok, have it your way" we have entered into the beginning of the end. In John 6 Jesus says, "No one can come to Me unless The Father Who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day." The powerful truth is there is nothing worse than this, without God in your corner it is impossible for a good outcome.

God does not force us to obey him. He will let us go our own way. You can blaze whatever trail you'd like. You do things, "your way." God says, "Do what you want! I am not going to stop

you!” God will let us experience all that there is in life, but with that we also receive the full consequences of our sins.

In every rebellion and disobedience of God we exchange the truth of God for the lie of our own choosing and set the created before the Creator. Paul is implying that it is not *a lie*, but *the lie*. The lie is essentially idolatry – which puts us in the place of God.

Devolving life, Desecration of the body

Vs 26-27 We see here that Paul is specifically pointing to sexual sins. We plunge ourselves into an offset mind when God is not the center of our lives. These sins are a worship problem, and it is important to identify these sins for what they are.

Often, we try to overcome sins by simple redirection and willpower. Sometimes this works but often times it does not. Let’s look back at verse 21, “They did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.” I think this is important information for our fight against Satan. We can try to fight temptations alone. We can try to “white knuckle” our way through our sins. But the answer to fighting sin is to worship God. We must stop worshiping our lusts and desires. We need to honor God as God, and we need to give Him thanks.

Sin, particularly sexual sins as Paul identifies, is the result of our rejection of God and our failure to honor him and give thanks to him in our lives. God is good medicine for many of our disorders and addictions. The bad thing about sin, especially sexual sin, is the pleasure is short lived. Just like addicts, it always will take more and more to please that desire.

Just as no one starts out as an alcoholic or a drug addict, everyone thinks that they will be able to handle their sin, let alone ever becoming enslaved by it. But they are wrong. Sexual sin is often times socially acceptable. Sex outside of marriage, cheating is frowned upon but is normally overlooked soon after and it is normal now to be homosexual. We must understand that homosexuality is a direct result of one who has been given over completely in the pursuit of sexual gratification. Rather than surrendering their will over to The God who made them, they are willing to exchange His love and grace for shameful perversion.

We should not assume that all Christians understand that homosexual activity of all kinds is just as condemned by God as following shameless passions, exchanging natural relations for unnatural. I don’t know if there is a clearer way for God to condemn homosexual behavior and activity. It should be noticed that all homosexual activity is condemned, not just certain situations. Before this week I thought homosexuality was all one thing. I was unaware that it is often viewed as ok as long as it is not promiscuous. Meaning married homosexuals are free from condemnation. But that is simply not what the text says. Paul says that all homosexual activity is contrary to the created order.

In Genesis 1:28 and again in 9:1 God instructs Adam and Eve, and Noah and his sons to populate the earth. This is the natural order that God created, not homosexual relationships.

Paul starts out by saying “Even the women” were given over to such behavior. Just as it is now it was generally believed that women possess more self-control than men. Ladies, don’t get a big head about this statement as it is specifically talking about sexual self-control. This may not apply to sweets, or shopping, or spoiling the grandkids.

Men also gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another. Men left what is natural and ordained by God to follow their own passions. Homosexual activity is the committing of shameless acts, according to Paul. Therefore, they are deserving of judgment for their error.

It has not been too long ago that other denominations not only accepted as members those who continue to practice homosexuality but have also allowed them to be leaders and even preachers. This is not going to stop here. More and more people who claim to follow Jesus are going to follow suit. We must be warned and understand that homosexuality has become socially acceptable but that does not mean that God accepts it.

Paul categorizes the whole section under the idea of vile passions, unhealthy and unholy. Nevertheless, Paul lived in a culture that openly approved of homosexuality. Paul was not writing this to a culture that agreed with him.

Paul wrote to a culture where homosexuality was accepted as a part of life for both men and women. For some 200 years, the men who ruled the Roman Empire openly practiced homosexuality, which often times was with young boys.

At times the Roman Empire specifically taxed, approved homosexual prostitution and gave boy prostitutes a legal holiday. Same sex marriage was recognized, and even some of the emperors married other men. At the very time Paul was writing this letter, Nero was emperor. He took a boy named Sporus, had him castrated, then married him, brought him to the palace with a great procession, and made the boy his “wife.” Later, Nero lived with another man, in a relationship where Nero was the “wife.” If this does not scream depravity, I do not know what would.

A 2013 study demonstrated that homosexual’s males have earlier first-time sexual experiences, they had many more sexual partners over their lifetime, and are much more likely to have more than one sexual partner at a time as compared to heterosexual’s males or females.

Paul speaks of a penalty for homosexual conduct; homosexuality has within itself a penalty. This speaks of the generally self-destructive nature of sin; that often carries within itself its

own penalty. It is the penalty of rebellion, resulting in spiritual emptiness and all its ramifications. As further judgment, God gives man over to a depraved mind, so that things that are disgraceful and sickening are readily accepted and approved.

Devolving life, Desecration of the body, Dissolution of the mind

Vs 28-32

This is the third time that Paul points out that God gives people over to their sinfulness. God will not make you serve him. If you cannot see that it is right and fit to worship God, then you will be left in your unrighteous, unfit mind. The word used in other translations is debased and it originally meant “that which has not stood the test.” This term was used to refer to coins that were below standard and therefore rejected. The idea is that since man did not “approve” to know God, they came to have an “unapproved” mind.

A mind that has been left to its own devices will continue to devolve. The sinking truth about sin is that it leads to a sinner who does not consider much other than itself. For these sexually immoral people, sexual sin is unfortunately just the beginning. For someone who chooses to turn their back on God, they get caught up in all kinds of unrighteous desires. Paul lists 15 traits that they are also full of, not counting a few other characteristics like inventing ways of doing evil, disobeying their parents, no understanding, no love, no mercy. Notice how “socially acceptable” sins such as covetousness, envy and pride are included right along with “socially unacceptable” sins such as murder and being unloving.

The word covetousness literally means “the itch for more”, being proud is continually exalting yourself while depressing others, and envy, seems like a small one huh. Well, there is a degree of that being what put Jesus on the cross. Matthew 27 tells us that “*Pilate knew that they had handed Him over because of envy*”.

As we talked about earlier, the deeper they go the more it takes to satisfy their deceitful desires.

Our rebellion against God is not only displayed in our *actions*, but in our *thinking*. We are genuinely “spiritually insane” in our rebellion against God. It is a disappointing state that we see all around us today with an ever-increasing abundance of self-absorbed people, who in their hatred of God live only to gratify themselves at any cost. The bible is clear that those who either practice or approve of these things are worthy of death; they are the worthy targets of the wrath of God.

Where does all this violence, immorality, cruelty and degradation come from? It happens when men abandon the true knowledge of God, and the state of society reflects God’s judgment upon them for this.

Let's be honest, people know that these things are wrong. They are fully aware of God's decree. No one says that they had no idea murder is wrong. God's decree is that those who practice such things deserve death. Let there be no mistake, we are out of fellowship with God, we are separated from God, and we deserve the severest judgment for choosing these things.

This is one more problem: these people not only practice these things, which is bad enough, but applaud others for doing what they are doing. It is not enough to plunge their own lives into ruin, but they are going to try to get you to participate with them. Why? So that they will feel better about themselves. Sin does not seem so condemning when we can convince others to do the same thing with us. People are going to try to take you down the wrong road, there will be no shortage of friends applauding you in your wicked lifestyle.

So today which way will you have it? Will you follow Jesus, love Him, and allow Him to lead your life? Or will your choice be to rebel and desire to have it your way?