

EXPLANATION OF 45TH BIBLEBOOK

ROMANS 1:18-32 (April A.D. 67)

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 1:1-17 Paul introduced the gospel. The gospel is God's powerful means to save people. It is God's message about imputing (reckoning) and imparting (giving) the righteousness of Christ to everyone who believes in Christ'.

Paul's purpose is to prove the doctrine that 'righteousness is by faith only'. To do this it was necessary to first show that 'all people are without any righteousness that can satisfy the demands of God'. And because all people are without any righteousness of their own, they are exposed to God's condemnation.

In Romans 1:18-32 Paul first proves that the Gentiles are completely unrighteous. In fact, they are godless and wicked (1:18). In Romans 1:18-23 Paul describes the *godless character* of the Gentiles and in Romans 1:24-32 he describes their *wicked behaviour*. Therefore, in order to be saved, Gentiles need God's righteousness. Without it, they will certainly perish!

In Romans 2:1 to 3:8 he proves the sinfulness of the Jews. Finally he draws the conclusion that God will not justify anyone who tries to keep the law, whether he is a Jew or a Gentile (3:9-20).

OUTLINE

Theme. The Gentiles need God's righteousness

Paul first proves that people cannot be justified (forgiven, accepted, saved) by obeying the law or by any other thing they do. In God's eyes the Gentiles are unrighteous (1:18-32).

- (I) 1:18-23. The godlessness of the Gentiles.
- The Gentiles are godless and wicked (1:18).
 - The Gentiles have no excuse (1:19-20).
 - The Gentiles worship idols (1:21-23).
- (II) 1:24-32. The wickedness of the Gentiles.
- The Gentiles are given over to sexual immorality (1:24-27).
 - The Gentiles are given over to every other form of wickedness (1:28-31).
 - The Gentiles approve of all people who practise godlessness and wickedness (1:32).

EXPLANATION

(I) 1:18-23. The godlessness of the Gentiles.

a. The Gentiles are godless and wicked (1:18).

1:18. For the wrath of God is continually being revealed¹ (vipp) from heaven against all the godlessness (ungodliness) and wickedness of people who continually (attempt to suppress and actually) suppress² (vppa) the truth by their wickedness³.

The nature of God.

- The wrath of God is an expression of his holy and righteous nature. God is not only a loving God, but also a holy and righteous God! God is holy and righteous in his divine being, character and behaviour and therefore utterly displeased with sin. Therefore God is completely just and fair when he condemns people who are unholy in character and unrighteous in behaviour! A person that can be charged for being godless or wicked is therefore justly exposed to God's righteous indignation. He cannot claim God's love and favour on the ground of his human descent, his own character or behaviour (religious or otherwise). God hates the wicked and those who love violence, but loves the righteous and those who hate injustice⁴!
- The wrath of God is an expression of his just and fair punishment. The punitive justice of God is an essential attribute of God's divine nature. God's holy righteousness renders the punishment of sin necessary. If God does not punish sin, he stops to be righteous and holy.

God's holy righteousness is also the foundation of man's need of a vicarious atonement to pardon his sins. This principle is the basis of Paul's explanation of the doctrine of justification. 'God's wrath' is God's righteous and holy indignation against the sin of people and his righteous determination to punish sin. God's wrath is revealed *from heaven*, because that is where God dwells. God's wrath is *revealed* or manifested by the actual punishment of sin in many ways.

¹ G: apo-kaluptomai

² G: kat-echó (kata = down)

³ cf. Galatians 6:7-8a

⁴ Psalm 11:5,7; cf. Psalm 5:4-6

For example, in the past history God punished sin through the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorra and the ten plagues in Egypt. In the present God punishes sin through earthquakes, floods/tsunami's, droughts, wars, epidemics and failure of agriculture, industry and commerce⁵.

The nature of man.

- People are godless and wicked. 'Godlessness' means impiety towards God and 'wickedness' means injustice towards people. God's wrath is against people who suppress the truth and who exchange the truth! 'The truth' is whatever is right, holy and true, not in our human eyes, but in God's divine eyes. The truth is especially the religious and moral truth that God has revealed in the Bible⁶. *God's truth in the Bible reveals the only true Saviour of the world⁷, the only true religion in the world and the only true morality in the world!* Any person who rejects the truth as revealed in the Bible stands under God's wrath.
- How people suppress the truth. Although people have enough knowledge or awareness that God is a holy, righteous and a powerful God, they lack reverence for God himself and for God's laws (in the sense of the moral law), which regulate people's lives in relationship to God and other people. They know the truth, but push it away from their consciousness and practical life. In the long run these attempts to suppress the truth do not succeed. God punishes people for their lack of reverence for him and his laws.

How people exchange the truth. People not only push God's truth out of their lives, but also replace God's truth with all kinds of human lies, whether these lies are philosophic, religious or scientific in nature. They replace the living God with man-made inventions about 'god'. False prophets replace the God who revealed himself in the prophets of the Old Testament, in Jesus Christ and in the apostles of the New Testament⁸ with his own revelations about who 'god' is⁹. False prophets and cult teachers replace the true teachings of the Bible with all kinds of distorted man-made teachings and produce their own so-called 'holy books'. God will certainly punish people who believe in all kinds of false religions and practise all kinds of false religions. The non-Christian religions are not the truth, because they suppress the truth (the teachings what to believe and how to live) of the Bible!

b. The Gentiles have no excuse (1:19-20).

1:19. because¹⁰ what can be known of God is continually (vipa) plain in them, because God has once for all made it plain (viaa) to them.

1:20. For since the creation of the world his (God's) invisible qualities - his eternal¹¹ power and divine nature¹² - have always been clearly seen¹³ (vipp), always being understood¹⁴ (vppp) from (his) works, so that these people always are (vnpa) without excuse¹⁵.

All people have received a general revelation of God. The God of the Bible has never left himself without a witness among his rational creatures on earth. He has given sufficient light about who he is and what he demands of his creatures through his works in creation (1:19-20) and through his moral laws written on the heart of people (2:15). God created all people with the ability to have some knowledge of God. Paul does not say that everything that may be known about God was revealed to the Gentiles. He simply says that *the Gentiles had sufficient knowledge of God to render their godlessness and wickedness inexcusable!* It is not just knowledge that there is a God, but knowledge of God's nature and attributes, like his eternal power, divinity (1:20), justice (1:32) and moral commands (2:14-5). According to other passages in the Bible, the Gentiles have knowledge of God's invisible qualities, like his goodness, wisdom, power and majesty expressed in his works¹⁶.

This knowledge concerning God was made plain to them or better, was made plain *in*¹⁷ them. It is *a revelation in their minds and hearts*. In the very way human beings have been created, namely, in the image of God, they have some evidence of God's being and perfect characteristics. This enables human beings to see the manifestations of God in his created works. God has never left himself without a witness. God's existence and perfect characteristics have always been so clear, that his rational creatures are bound to acknowledge and worship him as the true and only God! That is why God's rational creatures are not merely material beings (like apes), but spiritual and moral beings (humans). As rational and moral beings, people have no excuse for their godlessness and wickedness (3:19-20).

⁵ cf. Ezekiel 14:21; Amos 4:6-12; Haggai 1:5-11

⁶ John 3:21; 8:32; 17:17; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:12

⁷ John 14:6; Acts 4:12

⁸ Hebrews 1:1-2

⁹ Deuteronomy 18:15-22; Acts 3:18-26

¹⁰ G: dioti

¹¹ G: aidios

¹² G: theotés

¹³ G: kat-horaó

¹⁴ G: noeó

¹⁵ G: anapologéto

¹⁶ Psalm 8; Psalm 19; Isaiah 40:21-26; Acts 14:17; 17:24-27

¹⁷ G: en

However, this knowledge concerning God was suppressed and exchanged (18,25). Although all human beings have the ability to know about God's existence and character, they "neither glorify nor give thanks" to God (1:21). This is inexcusable, because people do not act in accordance with their knowledge of the truth! Instead, they deliberately and wickedly oppose the truth.

Their idolatry is not the result of their *ignorance*, but the fruit of their *voluntary depraved godlessness*! They know what is right towards God (1:32), but nevertheless do what is wrong towards God. They do not worship the living God as their God and they do not acknowledge the living God as the Source of their life and blessings.

Likewise, their sexual immorality is not the result of their ignorance, but the fruit of their voluntary depraved wickedness. They know what is right towards other people (1:32), but nevertheless do what is wrong towards other people. They do every kind of wickedness towards one another (1:29-31).

Even the most reprobate sinner knows within himself that he is guilty of suppressing the truth or exchanging the truth for a lie. He knows that he is justly exposed to the wrath of God. Romans 1:32 says that although people *know* God's righteous decree, that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. The conscience of man can never be entirely silenced!

All people need a special revelation of God. Although the revelation of God in his created works is sufficient to render people inexcusable with respect to God's *judgement*, it does not follow that this general revelation is sufficient to lead them to *salvation*. In order to be saved, people need more than a general revelation of God. They need a special revelation of God. The natural religious feelings and religious wisdom of people can never save them. The experience of the people of the whole world, under all the variety of circumstances in which they have existed, proves that the knowledge of God that they derived from God's works in nature and from God's moral laws on their heart has not led them to believe in Jesus Christ. The knowledge, which the Gentiles have about God in his works, within their hearts as well as through their obscure traditions, does not lead them to the living God of the Bible. It also does not lead them to God's required righteousness and holiness. In order to be saved, the people in the world need a special revelation of God (1:21-23). That special revelation is given in the gospel (1:17; 3:21). The gospel is the special revelation of God.

c. The Gentiles worship idols (1:21-23).

1:21. For although they knew¹⁸ (vpaa) God, they neither glorified (viaa) him as God nor gave thanks (viaa) (to him), but became futile¹⁹ (viap) in their speculations (thinking, reasoning, arguments) and their foolish (senseless, lack of high moral quality) hearts were darkened²⁰ (viap).

1:22. Although they continue to claim (assert)²¹ (vppa) to be wise, they have once for all become fools²² (viap)

1:23. and once for all exchanged²³ (viaa) the glory of the immortal²⁴ God for images in the likeness of mortal²⁵ man and of birds²⁶, four-footed animals and crawling creatures²⁷ (e.g. snakes).

God condemns people who create their own 'god', religion and holy book. Although the Gentiles understood what may be known about the one and only God they did not worship or serve him. Instead they *suppressed* the truth about the living God in the Bible (1:18) and they *exchanged* the truth about the living God in the Bible for their own invented lies (philosophical, religious and so-called scientific lies)(1:25)! As a result, they give themselves up to all forms of idolatry (the worship of gods that are different to the God who revealed himself in the Bible). The uneducated Gentiles make idols of stone. They exchange the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and animals (1:21-23). But the educated Gentiles invent their own idea of 'god', their own religion, their own prophet and their own religious book. *They create a god in their own likeness, because then they can worship their god without the need to change their godless character or wicked behaviour!*

For example, a man of war invents a god of war and a doctrine of holy wars in order to justify his holy wars, whether for religious, economic or political reasons! An immoral person invents an immoral god and an immoral doctrine of sexual permissiveness in order to justify his sexual permissive lifestyle. And a wicked person invents a god who gives revelations that justify his wickedness, for example divorcing his wife or taking someone else's wife on the basis of a religious revelation. Unholy and wicked people first make gods in their own unholy and wicked image and then worship those gods²⁸.

¹⁸ G: ginóskó

¹⁹ G: mataioó

²⁰ G: skotizó

²¹ G: phaskó

²² G: mórainó

²³ G: allassó

²⁴ G: apthartos

²⁵ G: phthartos

²⁶ G: petaina

²⁷ G: herpeta

²⁸ Psalm 115:8

However, any person who desires to know and worship the true and living God (the God of the Bible) must repent of his evil ways, turn to the living God and allow God to transform his godless and evil human nature, character and behaviour! Jesus taught that a man must be born-again²⁹ and the apostle Paul taught that a man must be transformed by the renewal of his mind (12:2)!

The consequences of a godless character are terrible! Everything the Gentiles think with their minds becomes futile, absolutely useless in God's eyes. And everything that comes out of their hearts is only darkness (1:21). "Every inclination of the thoughts of their heart is only evil all the time"³⁰. "Out of their heart come only evil thoughts"³¹. *In their innermost being*, the Gentiles have demonstrated their darkness and have lost the ability to do anything that is righteous!

God has established a definite relationship between what you believe and how you live. Godlessness leads to wickedness. *Religious error (spiritual corruption) leads to moral depravity, but moral depravity (sexual immorality) also leads to corruption of the truth (false doctrines).* People, who do not want to acknowledge what the living God has revealed about himself in the Bible, will become more and more corrupt in their knowledge and in their behaviour. The less a person relates to the living God, the more immoral and depraved he will become in his behaviour. For example, when a person does not thank or glorify God, he becomes a fool in his thinking.

(II) 1:24-32. The wickedness of the Gentiles.

a. The Gentiles are given over to sexual immorality (1:24-27).

1:24. Therefore God, in (allowing them to follow) the sinful desires³² of their hearts, *once for all* gave them over³³ (viaa) to sexual impurity (sexual aberration)³⁴ in which their bodies were *continually* dishonoured (degraded)³⁵ (vnpe) among themselves.

1:25. They *once for all* exchanged³⁶ (viaa) the truth consisting of God for a lie and worshipped³⁷ (viao) and served (in their religious duties)³⁸ (viaa) the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

1:26. Because of this, God *once for all* gave (viaa) them over to dishonourable passions (shameful lusts, the ungoverned aspect of evil desire)³⁹. For even their females (women)⁴⁰ exchanged (viaa) the natural function⁴¹ (i.e. the normal sexual intercourse) for that (which is) contrary to nature.

1:27. In the same way also the males (men)⁴² having abandoned⁴³ (vpaa) the natural function (the normal sexual intercourse) with females (women), were consumed (kindled, inflamed)⁴⁴ (viap) by their flaming passion (lust)⁴⁵ for one another. Males with males *continued to practise*⁴⁶ (vppn) shamelessness (obscenities, indecent acts)⁴⁷ and *continued to receive* (vppa) in themselves the penalty⁴⁸, which is *continually* necessary (due)⁴⁹ (vii) for their error (deviation, wandering from the right path)⁵⁰.

God has established a definite relationship between godlessness and wickedness. Godlessness leads to wickedness. For example, when a believer turns away from the living God or holds on to false religious doctrines, he may begin to live a sexual immoral life. And wickedness leads to godlessness. For example, when a person is living in sexual immorality, you may assume that he probably believes in false religious doctrines as well. That person may begin to believe in the false and twisted beliefs of the cults; or in the god of another religion; or that God does not exist. Or he may begin to believe in doctrines (teachings) that justify his unspiritual and immoral life-style.

²⁹ John 3:3-8

³⁰ Genesis 6:5

³¹ Matthew 15:19

³² G: epi-thumia

³³ G: para-didómi

³⁴ G: a-katharsia

³⁵ G: a-timazó

³⁶ G: met-allassó

³⁷ G: sebazomai

³⁸ G: latreuó

³⁹ G: pathos

⁴⁰ G: thélus, théleiai

⁴¹ G: chrésis

⁴² G: arsén -enos

⁴³ G: aphtentes = vpaa < ap-hihemi, aphésó, afhéka (1 aor) to abandon

⁴⁴ G: ek-kaió, exekausa

⁴⁵ G: orexis

⁴⁶ G: kat-ergazomai

⁴⁷ G: aschemosuné

⁴⁸ G: anti-misthia

⁴⁹ G: dei

⁵⁰ G: plané

Luckily, the opposite is also true. Godliness leads to righteousness. For example, a person who repents and turns away from sexual immorality will again cherish the truth in the Bible. A person who walks with the living God of the Bible will maintain a true and righteous morality!

God often punishes sin by giving the sinner over to more sin.

- God withholds his mercy, ceases to restrain their evil and abandons them to their evil. God's judicial abandonment of man to sin is consistent with God's holiness and with man's immoral action. God does not impel or entice people to do evil⁵¹. But *when people persist in doing evil, God withdraws his care and abandons them to their own evil!* When God gives people over to degrading sexual impurity and shameful indecent acts among one another (1:24,26), *he simply ceases to restrain their evil actions.* When God gives people over to a depraved mind that can only invent every kind of wickedness (1:28-31), *he simply abandons them to their own evil imaginations.* God allows them to reap what they themselves have sown⁵². And when this kind of godlessness and wickedness persists, God not only *withholds his mercy and grace from them, but actually punishes their continual hardening of themselves* by their unbelief and disobedience with permanent hardening (cf. 1:18,24-28; 9:18; 11:7-10)⁵³.
- God shows great patience with the godless and wicked people on earth before he gives them over to their sinful desires and degrading lifestyle. For example, before Cain murdered his brother, God dealt tenderly with Cain. He invited Cain to do what is right. Then God would accept him⁵⁴. Before the flood, God waited patiently for a long time in the hope that the wicked people on earth would repent and not perish⁵⁵. God gave Jezebel, who promoted idolatry and sexual immorality in the church, time to repent from her spiritual and sexual immorality. But because she and her partners were unwilling, God brought intense suffering to them⁵⁶.
- God allows people to reap judgements for transgressing the laws he built into creation. God's present judgements in this life precede God's final judgement at the end of this world. God's present judgements consist of *allowing* certain judgements when people transgress the spiritual and moral laws which he built into creation. They reap what they sow⁵⁷. Like the law of gravity in physics, so a person who sows laziness will reap poverty. A man who sows hatred will reap broken relationships. A man who sows tyranny will reap wars. A man who sows drugs will reap addiction. And a man who sows sexual immorality will reap sexual diseases.
- God brings judgements on people who persist in turning their backs to the God of the Bible. God withdraws his care and his protection from them and brings his present temporary judgements on them. For example, their harvests fail, wars tear their country apart, their people suffer great losses and there is no more satisfaction in anything on earth, etc.⁵⁸. God uses all kinds of natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, droughts, hunger and epidemics throughout the history of man on earth *to show to mankind that he is displeased with their sins and to warn them to repent and turn back to him*⁵⁹. He does these things in order to safeguard them from his future *eternal* judgement (doom)! "When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world"⁶⁰. The purpose of God's present judgements is to discipline people, that is, to warn people, to expose their sins, to make them aware of their sins, to rebuke them for their sins and to call them to repentance. God's goal is to do what is best for people *now*. However, "when the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong"⁶¹. God sounds his trumpets of judgement as a warning to repent⁶².

If God would simply tolerate their godlessness and wickedness to continue unchallenged, people would ultimately become slaves to their sins and God would consequently have to punish them with eternal punishment. The purpose of God's present judgements is to cause people to turn from their godlessness and wickedness and instead share in God's holiness and righteousness⁶³. God punishes in order to heal⁶⁴. However, if God's patience is not answered by repentance, then in righteous indignation God will finally abandon them to eternal separation from God's presence and loving care⁶⁵.

⁵¹ James 1:13

⁵² Galatians 6:7

⁵³ Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:11-15

⁵⁴ Genesis 4:6-7

⁵⁵ Genesis 6:5; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:9

⁵⁶ Revelation 2:20-22

⁵⁷ Galatians 6:7-8

⁵⁸ Leviticus 26:14-25; Amos 4:6-12; Haggai 1:3-11; Matthew 24:4-14; Revelation 9:20-21;16:9

⁵⁹ Ezekiel 14:21

⁶⁰ 1 Corinthians 11:32

⁶¹ Ecclesiastes 8:11; cf. Deuteronomy 13:11; Psalm 119:126; Isaiah 26:9

⁶² Revelation 9:20-21

⁶³ Hebrews 12:4-13

⁶⁴ Isaiah 19:22

⁶⁵ 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

- God rejects and abandons people that persist in sin. The consequences of a wicked behaviour are terrible! God gives the wicked people over to their own wickedness! They foster sinful desires like pornography and commit all kinds of sexual immoral acts. So God *gives them over* to a life of shameful pornography and degrading sexual immorality (1:24). He gives them over to shameful and ungovernable lusts (1:26) and to a depraved mind (1:28). God *abandons* people that invent, do or promote wickedness to a life of continued wickedness. They sink further and further into depravity, crime and especially sexual immorality. The evidence of such moral corruption is the vast sexual promiscuity, gross homosexuality and consequent terrible sexual diseases among both men and women in almost every society (1:26-27).

God condemns homosexual practices.

- The marriage relationship. According to the plain teaching of the Bible, sexual intercourse was exclusively reserved for the husband and the wife inside their marriage relationship and was absolutely forbidden in any other relationship⁶⁶. The marriage relationship in the Bible is always between one man and one woman. Marriage between one man and one woman is an ordination of God from the beginning and has never been an invention of any human society or culture⁶⁷. When a man and a woman marry, they acknowledge that it is God who unites them together for life⁶⁸ and they make a covenant before God to be faithful to one another⁶⁹. God requires that all people in all cultures and at all times in history must honour the marriage relationship and must give sex a place only inside this marriage relationship⁷⁰.
- The homosexual relationship. The issue in the Bible is not a person's *natural sexual orientation, inclination or feelings*, whether it is heterosexual or homosexual. The issue in the Bible is *how a person gives expression to his natural sexual orientation, inclination and sexual feelings in forbidden sexual practices!*

Studies have revealed the great influence the relationship or absence of a relationship between homosexuals and lesbians on the one hand and their fathers and mothers on the other hand has had on the development of their acceptance of being a man or a woman during their upbringing. The Bible does not explain the various possible causes why some people believe that they are homosexual or lesbian.

But the Bible clearly teaches that every person is born with a sinful nature⁷¹, that all people have sinned (3:23) and that there is no one who does what is good – not even one (3:12). The Bible also clearly teaches what a person may do or not do with his sexuality, no matter how he/she believes he is oriented or inclined to act!

God created sex in order to bind the husband and wife together into a unity for life⁷². “they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate”⁷³. He created sex for their enjoyment⁷⁴ and for the procreation of offspring⁷⁵.

But God forbids every kind of sexual relationship other than the sexual relationship between the husband and the wife inside the marriage relationship. All other kinds of sexual relationships are contrary to God's intention and expressed will. In the Old Testament, God severely condemns sexual sins like incest, paedophilia, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality⁷⁶, promiscuity, infidelity, rape and prostitution⁷⁷. In the New Testament, God severely condemns sexual offenders like people who indulge in pornography, people who break up their marriages by adultery, people who pose as male prostitutes and people who commit homosexual offences⁷⁸.

God makes no statement about a person's *natural sexual orientation, inclination or feelings*, just like he makes no statement about a person's inclination to murder, to tell lies, to steal or to covet⁷⁹, besides that *all people in the world have by nature a sinful orientation, a sinful inclination and sinful feelings!* All people face temptations to give in to their old sinful nature⁸⁰. But with God's help all people can resist temptations⁸¹.

What God condemns is when people capitulate to their sinful nature, *give expression to their sinful nature in their motives, attitudes, speech and behaviour* or justify their human right to express their sinful nature as they want. God

⁶⁶ Genesis 2:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:4-5; Hebrews 13:4

⁶⁷ Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31

⁶⁸ Matthew 19:6

⁶⁹ Malachi 2:14-15

⁷⁰ Hebrews 13:4

⁷¹ Job 14:415:14,16; 25:4; Psalm 51:5

⁷² Genesis 2:24

⁷³ Matthew 19:6

⁷⁴ Song of Songs

⁷⁵ Genesis 1:28

⁷⁶ Leviticus 18:6,20, 22,23; 20:10,13,15,17

⁷⁷ Deuteronomy 22:20-30; 23:17; 27:21

⁷⁸ 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Peter 4:3-5

⁷⁹ Exodus 20:12-17

⁸⁰ James 1:13-14

⁸¹ 1 Corinthians 10:13

certainly condemns the sinful motives and attitudes in the heart, like murder (anger), adultery (lust) and lies⁸². He certainly condemns *the expression of their sinful nature in their words and deeds*, like murder, lies, stealing, coveting and committing the above mentioned list of sexual sins. And he certainly forbids people *to justify, approve or promote* sexual sins in private or in public (1:32). People who have given themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion will suffer the punishment of eternal fire⁸³. God will destroy those, who destroy their bodies⁸⁴, whether with sexual sins or with drugs, alcohol, over-working or over-eating.

However, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 teaches that anyone who has committed such sins in the past will be saved, if he comes to Jesus Christ for forgiveness (justification) and submit himself to the work of the Holy Spirit for holy living (sanctification). God condemns homosexual *practices*, but those who have committed homosexual practices will be saved if they turn away from their practices to Jesus Christ.

b. The Gentiles are given over to every other form of wickedness (1:28-31).

1:28. And since they first tested and then disapproved⁸⁵ (viaa) (decided after trial) to always retain (have)(vnpa) God in (their) knowledge (to recognise God), God once for all gave them over (viaa) to a useless (rejected after trial, failing the test, disqualified)⁸⁶ mind, to continually do (vnpa) the things that (are) not proper (duty, obligation in Stoic philosophy)⁸⁷;

1:29. having become filled (vprp) with every kind of unrighteousness⁸⁸, wickedness⁸⁹, greed⁹⁰ and depravity⁹¹; being full of envy⁹², murder⁹³, strife⁹⁴, deceit⁹⁵ and malice⁹⁶; (they are) gossips (whisperers)⁹⁷;

1:30. slanderers⁹⁸, God-haters⁹⁹, insolent (mixture of pride and cruelty: contempt for others and enjoying to see others suffer)¹⁰⁰, arrogant (setting himself on a pedestal above others)¹⁰¹ and boastful (braggart, one who makes empty boasts and false promises often for the purpose of personal gain)¹⁰²; inventors¹⁰³ of evil, disobedient¹⁰⁴ to parents,

1:31. senseless (without understanding, foolish)¹⁰⁵, faithless (to an agreement, covenant breakers)¹⁰⁶, ruthless (without affection)¹⁰⁷, unmerciful (without pity)¹⁰⁸.

The Gentiles prove that they are completely unrighteous by doing every kind of wickedness in the world. *In their outward behaviour*, the Gentiles have demonstrated their terrible depravity and have lost the ability to do anything that is righteous! So God gives them over to a depraved mind; to keep doing what ought not to be done.

c. The Gentiles approve of all people who practise godlessness and wickedness (1:32).

1:32. And although they know¹⁰⁹ (vpaa) the righteous decree of God that those who continually practise (vppa) such things are always (vipa) worthy of death, they not only persist to do (vipa) these very things but also continue to approve¹¹⁰ (vipa) of those who continually practise (vppa) them.

⁸² Matthew 5:21-37

⁸³ Jude 1:7; Revelation 21:8

⁸⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

⁸⁵ G: dokimazó

⁸⁶ G: adokimos

⁸⁷ G: kathékonta

⁸⁸ G: adikia

⁸⁹ G: ponéria

⁹⁰ G: pleonexia

⁹¹ G: kakia

⁹² G: phthonos

⁹³ G: phonos

⁹⁴ G: eris

⁹⁵ G: dolos

⁹⁶ G: kakoétheia

⁹⁷ G: psithurístés

⁹⁸ G: katalalos

⁹⁹ G: theostugés

¹⁰⁰ G: hubristés

¹⁰¹ G: huperéphanos

¹⁰² G: alazón

¹⁰³ G: epheuretés

¹⁰⁴ G: apeithés

¹⁰⁵ G: asunetos

¹⁰⁶ G: asunthetos

¹⁰⁷ G: astorgos

¹⁰⁸ G: aneleémón

¹⁰⁹ G: ginóskó

¹¹⁰ G: suneudokeó

Although the Gentiles know that people who practise these evil things deserve (eternal) death, they not only deliberately continue to practise these evil things themselves, but also approve of all people who practise them.