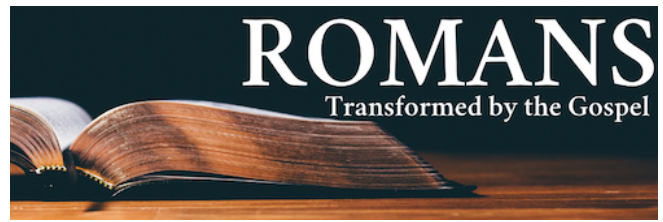


The Idolatry of Humanism!

March 22nd, 2020 – Romans 1:28-32
Pastor Jon Pickens



The Cause and Effect of Verse 28

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- **Cause:** In this case, the cause was that mankind “did not see fit to acknowledge God.”
- **Effect:** That effect was God giving them up to a debased mind.
 - **Adokimos:** means unqualified or not fitting, counterfeit.
 - **Katheko:** means “do what is fitting or right”.
- **Point:** God let them have what they wanted... a counterfeit mind leading to counterfeit deeds.

The 21 Gun Arsenal

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

- **First Observation:** Paul seems to be firing off this list of unrighteous deeds for effect.
- **Second Observation:** Paul is using this list to set up his next argument with the goal of proving that ALL are sinners and fall short of God’s glory.

Idolatry in this Passage

32 Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- Our depraved or counterfeit thinking leads us to redefine morally, in spite of our own conscience.
- So they didn’t approve of God’s thoughts and ways, but are giving approval to their own counterfeit morality. They have put themselves in the place of God as the moral law giver.

“Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good.”

- **First:** What is ethical?
- **Second,** who defines the greater good?
- **Third:** There is the assumption that life is about personal fulfillment.
4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Key Take-A-Ways:

- You really need to know the depths of your own hopeless condition before you can really see and embrace the true beauty of the Gospel.
- As you become more and more aware of your sinful condition, you need to look to Jesus and thank Him that you possess a righteousness from Him that produces in you eternal salvation.

My Personal Take-Away from the Message:

Next Steps: February Reading Plan (Week 1)

Day One: 2 Cor. 8

Day Two: 2 Cor. 9

Day Three: 2 Cor. 10

Day Four: 2 Cor. 11

Day Five: 2 Cor. 12

Next Week's Sermon Passage: Romans 2:1-16

Journaling Tip:

Sometimes it is really helpful to write out a short prayer to God to help cement in your mind what His Spirit is leading you toward. It may look like this...

"O God, help me to rest in the work of Jesus to secure my salvation. I have nothing to boast about, in fact, my only boast is in what Christ has accomplished on my behalf."

March Scripture Memory:

32 *"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

Luke 6:32-36 (ESV)