

Whatever Became Of Sin?

A CALL TO REPENTANCE
AND OBEDIENCE

A Change in Terms

- What used to be "SIN" is now a mistake.
- An error in judgment
- Pride is called "good stewardship" or "healthy self image"
- Stealing is "the company owed it to me"
- He had it, I want it, so I took it
- Unrepentance – not in computer spell-check

What Does God Say?

- Romans 1:16, 17 is theme for the book of Romans
- "For" or "Because" There is Truth that must be pursued and preserved. Man is in trouble...Rom 1:18
- He deals with sin for the sake of the gospel.
- That truth is that: a. God is not hiding -19, 2:14-15,
- b. God is Holy and All-Powerful -20, Ps.19:1-4
- So why doesn't man pursue God?

What Does God Say?

- This truth about God is suppressed by worshipping the CREATION rather than the CREATOR Rom 1:21-23
- Much of the environmental movement worships the creation as **Mother Earth or Gaia** - Gaia is a revival of paganism that rejects Christianity, considers Christianity its biggest enemy, and views the Christian faith as its only obstacle to a global religion centered on gaia worship and the uniting of all life forms around the goddess of "mother earth"
- It is not just the earth, but people. Worship of the rich and famous. Personal possessions and pleasure. The belief that, "I feel and believe, therefore, it is truth."

What Does God Say?

- People know God
- 1. They suppress truth - 18
- 2. What can be known is plain to them – 19a
- 3. God has shown it to them – 19b
- 4. His invisible attributes (eternal power and divine nature) are clearly perceived - 20
- 5. They knew God -21
- 6. They exchanged the glory of God for images of His creation -23

What Does God Say?

- 23 – In spite of having all the above knowledge, people exchanged His glory for less and refused to or give Him thanks.
- They are therefore without excuse -20
- All people are made in the image of God. That is the shape of our soul. God fits it. He made us whole. With sin, we try to fill our lives with "images", with stuff.
- The "Good News" to the soul crowded with empty "images" is the Truth of God.

The Results of Rejecting God

1. The foolishness of refusing to honor and thank God results in **futile** (incapable of producing any useful result; pointless) **thinking and a darkened heart that exchanges the glory for the "images" that leads to lustful thinking, sexual immorality and dishonouring their bodies.** 24-25
2. Because of darkened hearts, God gave them up to dishonourable homosexual passions. 26-27
3. God gives them up to a debased mind, to do what ought not to be done. 28-32

The Results of Rejecting God

These three exchanges serve as a parallel to the three kinds of sin that capture our hearts: original sin leaves us with a desire for that which God hates, actual sin hardens our heart and darkens our soul with each transgression, and indwelling sin traps us into thinking that we cannot mortify a sin that dwells within us because this sin is indistinguishable from who we are.

Rosaria Butterfield – exlesbian activist

What Does God Say?

- In spite of what men think, God continues to judge sin according to Truth. Not a truth, or His truth, but TRUTH.
- We are all without excuse. We are all in need of grace. Rom 2:1-2
- In our self-righteousness, while condemning sin in others, we do it. 2:3

What Does God Say?

- Today, God still considers stubborn unrepentance worthy of his wrath and that is coming. 2:5,6
- God says we are all sinners Rom 3:9-18
- While there is no way we can make ourselves righteous before God, there is a righteousness that God offers through faith. Rom 3:21-26

What Does God Say?

- Salvation is by grace, but we are still expected to stop sinning. 6:1 Repent, Turn, Follow
- How do we follow?
- Think of ourselves as totally unresponsive when it comes to responding to sin 6:1-14
- Realize we are slaves of the one we choose to obey 6:15-23

What Does God Say?

- Change is a process, not an event. There will be struggles 7:14-20
- Celebrate the victory that is ours in Jesus. 7:25
- God did not just provide the righteousness through Jesus, He gave the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us to live holy 8:9-11
- In Christ we are Heirs, Glorified, Conquerors, Inseparable from the love of God in Christ