

# Romans – The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 4 - So What If I Just Keep Sinning?

Romans 1:24-32

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### I. Your Sin Problem is Really a God Problem – so it's much bigger than you think

#### Every Time You Sin You're Rejecting God's Truth

- v. 18 “who suppress the truth in unrighteousness”
- v. 25 “who exchanged the truth of God for a lie”
- v. 28 “they did not like to retain God in their knowledge”

In our natural human condition, we do NOT want to be intimately and personally acquainted with God.

**Job 21:14** “Yet they say to God, ‘Depart from us, for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?’”

**Psalms 10:4** “The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.”

So you need to get behind your sin problem and come to grips with the fact that you've really got a problem with God - long before you struggle with any particular sin. You want to be God. You want to be worshipped... and you want to choose what you're going to worship and focus on.

- v. 25 “... and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator”
- v. 23 “And exchanged the glory (*doxa*) of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things.”

Every time you turn to your sin it's a moment of worship. So in that moment you're not only committing that sin... you're also committing the sin of idolatry!

Sin is false worship. In that moment that you choose to sin, you are acting on the lie that this sin will bring you more pleasure and satisfaction than God's promises.

“Sin is what you do when you're not satisfied in God.”  
Piper

- John

### II. Your Problem with Sin Should Never Be Taken Lightly – Because It'll Start to Own You

We all have an insidious and tragic propensity to **underestimate** the effects of sin... and to **overestimate** the benefits.

- o **Your sin will increasingly lead to a loss of dignity**

When you refuse to honor God, you'll start to dishonor yourself and other people around you, created in the image of God! Whenever the glory of God is attacked, sooner or later the dignity of man suffers.

**Romans 1:29-31** “being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful”

And remember that the outbreak of all this evil is that they did not think it worthwhile to retain God in their knowledge! Behavior and actions follow thinking. Ideas have consequences. You can't avoid it!

- **Your sin will eventually lead to a perversion of God's original design**
  - v. 26 "vile passions"- NASB "degrading passions"
  - v. 26 "exchanged the natural use for what is unnatural"
  - v. 27 "likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman"

When the knowledge of God is suppressed, the nature of man suffers and begins to manifest itself in unnatural acts.

- **Your sin will deceive you into losing touch with reality**

When a society sinks into moral decay like we have, one of the traits of that decay is that you no longer have the ability to see what's happening. Your mind becomes so defective and eaten up with what you're chasing after that you no longer have categories or a framework to recognize evil for what it really is.

v. 32 "who knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

When you've been heading down the path of sin for a while, you not only sin, you approve of sin, and recruit others for sin, and fail to be outraged over sin. You end up creating a climate for sin to flourish... and you take others with you to their death!

### **III. If You Persist Long Enough and Hard Enough... God Will Just Turn You Over to Your Sin!**

3x Paul uses the phrase "God gave them over" v. 24, 26, 28

The Greek word '*paradoken*' – means to hand someone over or to deliver them up to be under someone else's authority or custody.

The sin you thought you were controlling snaps hand-cuffs around your life and starts to tell you what to do!

As awful as this sounds, there is some good news here! God does not give you up forever! You can still repent!

This phrase 'God gave them up' shows both the MERCY and JUDGMENT of God. God allows you rush headlong into your sin unrestrained so that you can begin to taste the futility and wretchedness of turning away from God and His truth.

If you insist on playing hardball with God and your sin, He'll let you go deeper and deeper into sin if that's what it takes to bring you to the end of yourself... and to drive you to despair and show you your great need for God and His glory.

Sin will take you further than you ever wanted to go... keep you longer than you wanted to stay... and make you pay more than you ever intended to pay!

But the good news is that God has provided... so that you don't have to sink any further.

- The key verse for the reversal of God's wrath against us is Romans 1:17

**Romans 1:17** "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

The righteousness that God demands FROM us, He freely gives TO us in the Gospel, if we'll turn back to Him and trust Him to be our greatest good.

- The key verse for the reversal of God's handing us over to a depraved mind is Romans 6:17

**Romans 6:17** "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."

- The key verse for reversing the defectiveness of our minds is Romans 12:2

**Romans 12:2** "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

When God has given us his righteousness by faith in Jesus, and when he has handed us over to a new teaching of truth and begun to make us obedient to it, then little by little we are transformed by the renewing of our minds to the glory of God.