



Salvation: Why? and How?

Romans Chapters One to Five

Calvary Baptist Church

6

Sermon 6: Man without God, A Reality Check!

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Romans 1:28-32

I. **Repression** (Of God)

RETAIN ... KNOWLEDGE *Echo en epignosis.* (an idiom, literally 'to have in recognition') to recognize something as being what it truly is—'to acknowledge.'

II. **Reprobation** (From God) (Cf., 1 John 4:1; Eph. 5:3)

REPROBATE MIND *Adokimos nous.* A mind which is not in line with what is **appropriate**, fitting.

NOT CONVENIENT *Katheko.* That which is not **fitting** or right. There is an indication of judgment.

QUOTE: This verse is the climax of man's fall from God: they *refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God*. The verb translated *refuse to keep in mind* basically means to reject something that one has put to the **test**. There is evidently a play on words in Greek between the verb *refuse to keep in mind* and the adjective *corrupted* [**NOTE: KJV, reprobate**], but this is difficult to carry over in translation. In the present context *corrupted* refers to a mind that no longer functions as it should; this does not imply insanity, but rather the lack of ability to make **moral** and spiritual distinctions.

Handbook on Romans

QUOTE: As they did not like\ did not approve. The Gr. is akin to the Gr. of "reprobate" just below. Knowledge of God met with no approbation, and He gave them over to **reprobation**. H.G.C. Moule, *Romans*

III. Revelation (Of Man Apart from God)

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH “BEING FILLED WITH”

FILLED - *plero-o* To fill up so that there is room for nothing more.

1. **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS** (*adikia*) – To do wrong, commit injustice.
2. **FORNICATION*** (*porneia*) – the general word for sexual sin.
3. **COVETOUSNESS** (*pleonexia*) – greediness, insatiableness.
4. **MALICIOUSNESS** (*kakia*) – a mean-spirited attitude of ill will to others.

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH “FULL OF”

5. **ENVY** (*phthonou*) – a dislike of others based on some perceived advantage the person has over you.
6. **MURDER** (*phonou*) – intentional killing.
7. **DEBATE** (*eridos*) – strife, the expression of different opinions with antagonism or hostility.
8. **DECEIT** (*dolou*) – deception by trickery and falsehood.
9. **MALIGNITY** (*kako-etheias*) – a defect of character that leads on to be hurtful to others. Mean-spirited.

THIRTEEN WORDS THAT MODIFY THE WORD “THEM” IN “GAVE THEM OVER”

10. **WHISPERERS** (*psithyristas*) – gossips.
11. **BACKBITERS** (*katalaous*) – slanderers.
12. **HATERS OF GOD** (*theostygeis*)
13. **DESPITEFUL** (*hybristas*) – rude, insulting, disrespectful.
14. **PROUD** (*hyperephanous*) – arrogant, ostentatiously proud.
15. **BOASTERS** (*alazonas*) – braggarts.
16. **INVENTORS OF EVIL THINGS** (*epheuretas kakon*) – One who thinks up schemes or plans for evil.
17. **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS** (*goneusin apeitheis*) – habitually disobedient or rebellious to parents.
18. **WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING** (*asynetous*) – Foolish, senseless. Lacking the capacity for insight.
19. **COVENANT BREAKERS** (*asynthetous*) – One not willing to be bound by an agreement or one who breaks such an agreement.
20. **WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION** (*astorgous*) – Hardhearted, unfeeling, without love.
21. **IMPLACABLE*** (*aspondos*) – irreconcilable. One unwilling to negotiate a solution to a problem.
22. **UNMERCIFUL** (*anele-emonas*) – cruel, refusing to be merciful.

QUOTE: It is not simply that man has done these things. God is revealing that man **IS** these things!

IV. **Recognition** (Of God's judgment and penalty)

QUOTE: It is remarkable, despite their rejection of the true God and the darkening of their understanding (vv. 21–23), that they are still keenly aware of God’s disapproval of their behavior. In fact, their awareness is even greater than this. They know “the ordinance of God” (τὸ δικάϊωμα τοῦ θεοῦ, *to dikaiōma tou theou*), which is specified in the subsequent ὅτι (*hoti*, that) clause. God’s ordinance is that those who indulge in such behavior are “worthy of death” (ἄξιοι θανάτου, *axioi thanatou*). It follows, then, that Gentiles, without specifically having the Mosaic law, are aware of the moral requirements contained in that law (cf. Thielman 1994a: 169; Wilckens 1978: 115). They not only know that God **disapproves** of their behavior but they also know that it deserves the **punishment** of death (cf. 6:23). Nonetheless, they continue to engage in such wicked behavior. *Baker Exegetical Commentary*

V. **Rebellion** (Against God)

A. Their **Actions** Worthy of Judgment

B. Their **Approval** Worthy of Judgment

HAVE PLEASURE *syneudokeō* – To **join** with others in thinking well of something.

- And men delight in the sins of others as a “**sedative**” against their own sin.
- God says that this will bring his **judgment** just the same as if they had participated!

