***Abandoned to Evil, No. 1
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Please open your Bibles to Romans 1:24.

**Ingrates**

The apostle Paul has shown us thus far that people who reject the divine viewpoint of the gospel and of Bible doctrine are ingrates to the grace of God. An ingrate suffers a spiritual vacuum in his mind. This spiritual vacuum draws in human viewpoint which darkens the mentality. The mind includes a perceptive side and a directive side (or function). The Word of God is given to this mind, and a person understands it, but because he is negative, he, in effect, puts up his hand, and the Word of God is rebuffed, and it is lost. A condition gradually develops in the directive side of his mind which the apostle Paul has described as a blanket of darkness. It is darkness upon all the decision-making mechanism of the mentality. This darkness then causes the person to function the best that he can, which is on mere human viewpoint; and, human viewpoint is satanic in its orientation and in its direction.

**Fools**

However, Paul says that such people will view themselves as being wise. But the apostle says that God sees them with a darkened mind, and therefore calls them fools in reality. The decisions that they make, as time goes by, readily prove to be the decisions of a fool. So, it doesn't matter what your IQ may be: if you have a blanket of darkness upon the direct side of your mind, you are a fool. It matters not how esteemed a position you may hold in life, or what responsibility or influence you may bear: whether you be a government leader or ditch digger, with a darkened mind, you are a fool. And your decisions eventually will demonstrate themselves to be that. It is uncanny how absolutely fantastically intelligent men can be out of touch with reality, and can be making decisions that even cause they themselves to eventually walk around shaking their head in disbelief that they could have made such decisions and such moves.

The ultimate example of spiritual darkness is envisioning and worshiping God in the form of mortal man, and then, Paul said, in the form of animals: "birds; four-legged creatures; and, creeping things." Man, who began with a high point of the knowledge of God, gradually devolved in his understanding of God. A splendid example of the inanities that come from a darkened mentality is to be found in Isaiah 44:6-20, which describe the madness of idolatry as it existed in the land of Israel. We have variations of this today:

"'Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last. And beside Me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? And the things that are coming, and shall come, let them show unto them. Fear not, neither be afraid: have I not told you from that time, and have declared it? You are even My witnesses. Is there a God beside Me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any. They that make a carved image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they don't see nor know; that they may be ashamed.

"'Who has formed a god, or melted and cast an image that is profitable for nothing? Behold, all this fellow shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they should be ashamed together. The smith with the tongs both works in the coals and fashions it with hammers, and works with the strength of his arms. Yea, he is hungry, and his strength fails. He drinks no water and is faint. The carpenter stretches out his rule. He marks it with a line. He fits it with planes, and he marks it out with the compass, and makes it after the image of a man, according to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. He hews him down cedars, and takes the cypress and the oak, which he strengthens for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants an ash, and the rain nourishes it. Then it shall be for a man to burn: for he will take of it and warm himself; yea, he kindles it, and bakes bread. Yea, he makes a god and worships it. He makes a carved image and falls down to it. He burns part of it in the fire. With part of it, he eats flesh. He roasts roast and is satisfied.

"'Yea, he warms himself and says, 'Aha, I am warm. I have seen the fire.' And of the residue of it, he makes a God even his carved image: he falls down unto it, and worships it, and pray unto it, and says, 'Deliver me; for you are my god.' They have not known nor understood, for he has shut their eyes that they cannot see, and their hearts that they cannot understand. And none considers in his heart. Neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, 'I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon its coals; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue of it an abomination? Shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?'

"'He feeds on ashes: a deceived heart has turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, 'Is there not a lie in my right hand?''"

Now the ridiculous thing about all this is that this man doesn't even have the logic to say, "I take a tree. I've used part of it to cook my food, and to keep myself warm, and one thing and another. And I've used part of it to make my god, and I'm going to bow down to that part." Now, that's how stupid they are. And remember that that's the word that Paul says: "Their *stupid* minds became darkened."

Now, lest you should think that this Isaiah is speaking here about all these ignorant heathen, may I point out to you that he's speaking to what the people of Israel were doing now? Now, how dumb can you get? With the knowledge and the enlightenment that they had, they really had to be negative to perform in the pattern described here in Isaiah 44 of glorifying man. When you glorify men, you inevitably degrade God. This is just as when Abel glorified God, the opposite side was Cain degrading God.

Today, the Cain mentality governs the people of the world. It governs us in our entertainment; in our news; in our government circles; in education; in TV; and, even in the pulpits. The way of Cain is the way of our society. No human intellect can come up with divine realities on our own. Isaiah 55:8-9 make that very clear: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Man is not going to come up to God's thinking.

You know, there's little purpose in saying, "Well, I'm a very intelligent man," because by God's comparison, that's absolutely nothing. It's like saying that it's 250,000 miles to the moon and arguing, "Well, you're a quarter of an inch off." What difference does the quarter of an inch make against the 250,000 miles? And that's man's thinking against God's. God is 250,000 miles, and man's thinking is a quarter of an inch, and man thinks that he can come up with the realities of life.

**Religion**

Most people do not sense the vast contrast between God's thinking and our thinking. That's why the Lord says, "Your ways are not My ways. Your thoughts are not My thoughts. My thoughts are as high above yours as the heavens are above the earth." God's estimate of the unregenerate man is that he is untaught, and it is when he begins to listen to doctrine that he begins to be enlightened. If he does not come to this enlightenment, he ends up with religion to the senses. And then he comes to church and he depends on a beautiful organ playing music. He comes to church, and he watches the sunlight streaming through the stained glass windows. He gets a big kick out of seeing the choir coming in with all their flowing robes. He gets real sweaty all over when he hears the pontifical voice of the preacher. When he counts his beads, it just does something that is way out for him. All of that is religion, and man in his most degraded condition.

Now Paul all picks the story up against that kind of a background of this kind of a mentality, and he proceeds to show what has happened to the human race. Man knew God, and man was supremely intelligent. Never forget to put yourself in Adam's place and see how you would feel if somebody came to you and said, "We are now going to parade all the animals of the world in front of you. Will you please classify them, and give them names accordingly?" How would you like a job like that? But that's what Adam did. Adam looked at this animal, and he said, "Oh, this belongs in this classification. I will therefore call that this." Another animal came along, and he saw the classification, and he said, "I call it this." Most of our college students couldn't go any further than saying, "This is a four-footed class; this is a creeping class; and, this is a flying class." And that's about as far as the classification could go, but it was a monumental job to classify these things and to give them appropriate names, but Adam had the IQ to do it.

Now, man has come down from that kind of intelligence. So, let's not talk about how smart people are today. Even with their intelligence, they're nothing like what Adam and his wife. In addition, they've got this darkness upon them that makes them pathetic.

So Romans 1:24 says, "Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves." The word "wherefore" is the Greek word "dio." This actually comes from two words. It comes from the little preposition "dia," which means "on account of;" and, "ho" which means "which." So, what "dio" means here is "on account of which." And it is in the neuter case, so it refers to a thing. So, "wherefore" is saying "on account of which thing God abandoned a group of humanity." On account of what thing? Well, on account of the things that you read back in verses 22-23: that when they had the knowledge of God, they were ingrates, and they rejected the information about God: "Then, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and they changed the glory of the incorruptible (the immortal) God into an image like mortal man; birds; four-footed beasts; and, creeping things."

They had come so low, and they were so darkened in their thinking, that God finally comes to the point where He abandons a person who persists in that line. God has a built-in pattern for human beings to operate on. But when this pattern is not known, through darkness in the mind, then the person violates all divine laws: laws for the conduct of government; moral laws; divine institutions; laws of economy; and, so on. But you cannot violate these laws without receiving divine judgment.

**Darkened Minds**

That's the desperate condition of people with darkened minds. They don't even know how they should live. They don't know what they should do. Then God abandons them in that condition, because they brought themselves to that darkness. Every time a person goes negative to a portion of the Word of God (be he believer or unbeliever), he is inviting darkness into the decision-making function of his mind.

It is God who has done this, and it has the little article "the" in front of "God" in the Greek, so it is the God; namely, God the Father: "God the Father, on account of this, gave them up." The Greek word is "paradidomi." "Paradidomi" means "to hand over." God handed over their old sin nature to go ahead and have a field day. Because of their negative volition, He removed His restraining hand.

If this ever happens to a human being, that person is in a lot of trouble. If God ever removes his hand of restraint from any of us, relative to evil, there would be no limits to which we will go in that evil. These people came to the point where finally God just handed them over to evil. It is in the aorist tense, which means that it was at the point when their negative relation to doctrine brought darkness upon their minds. There was a blackout in their souls, and at that point, God handed them over to the results of that darkness.

It is active, meaning that it was God's decision against negative relation. It is infinitive. This expresses God's purpose. His purpose was "paradidomi:" just to hand these people over to the consequences of their negative volition and the darkness which they had brought upon themselves.

**Impurity**

On account of this thing, God the Father handed these heathen "to." That is the little preposition "eis," which is pointing direction into something. And the thing that he brought them into is "uncleanness." That is the Greek word "akatharsia." "Akatharsia" means dirt. It means impurity. This is the word that a Greek would use when a grave was opened up, in which the body was putrefying and crawling with worms. And he would look in and he would say, "Yuck, 'akatharsia,'" meaning corruption. It conveys a very vile image.

**Corruption**

Notice that this dirt; this corruption; and, this which represents the inside of a grave, here refers to the physical impurity that these people descend to. God gives them information and He gives them enlightenment. They stick their hand out, and they say, "I don't want it. I don't believe it. I reject it." Then the result is that a curtain of darkness falls upon their minds. So, they're wandering in the dark, unable to make decisions. And God says, "All right. If you want to be negative, go your own way."

**Physical Corruption**

Now the blackness is intense, and they start trying to live their lives on the basis of that kind of blackness. And it inevitably results in physical corruption; physical perversion; and, physical degeneration of the worst kind. In this case, as we're going to see, it is referring to a corruption in the form of sexual sins.

**Viciousness**

Also, this word, "akatharsia" includes the concept of viciousness. They have a sexual sin which has a hard core of sadism involved in it – a viciousness in the process of what they're doing. God handed them over to corruption "through." And this is the little Greek word "en." Here it actually means "by" or "in agreement with." He handed them up to this corruption in agreement with "their lusts." The word "lusts" is "epithumia." "Epithumia," which does mean "lusts," simply means in the Greek an intense desire of any kind. It doesn't have to be an evil desire. It could be an intense good desire. It simply means something that your emotions really hang onto, and that you deeply and very much want to do. Here, in this context, it does connote evil desires – desires which are the result of a darkened mind.

**A Darkened Heart**

That's what this word "heart" refers to. The Greek word is "kardia." "Kardia" refers to the directive side of the mind – the directive function of the mind. That is the decision-making part of the mind. That is the part of the mind where you have a frame of reference, which is the basis for making decisions. If you're in the dark, you're going to make darkened decisions. That's where you have your values and standards. All of us act according to certain values. We esteem certain things, and we do not esteem other things. We act according to a certain standard.

**Values and Standards**

If you walk into a store tomorrow, and the clerk gives you $20 too much in change, every one of you here is going to react in a certain way according to the values and the standards that are here in your "kardia" – that are there in your directive mind. And you'll either hand the money back; or you'll walk out with it; or you'll split it; or, some variation of that. But according to your values (your standards), you're going to react. You're going to do something. You may, as a matter of fact, have a little bit of attention. You may get out on the sidewalk with the dough in your hand, and stand there thinking it over, and finally think to yourself, "My guardian angel is looking over my shoulder. If I take this money, he'll tell them about it up there, and you'll walk back in and give it back." That's values and standards. That's what's in the heart.

**Vocabulary**

You have your vocabulary there. Some of you are very readily able to talk about doctrine. You're very readily able to use it. When people come to you, you can put it into words. You've got the vocabulary. You've got the concepts –, the categories of doctrine. That's where it's stored. It's up in that directive mind. That's why you can use it. That's why it keeps popping out, and guiding you in your decisions. You have a viewpoint on which you function.

**A Mental Blackout**

We're told here, in effect, that these deep desires of the directive side of their mind, which was now darkened, pursued something that we're very corruptible. And that thing is now described for us. Mind you that we are talking about people who began as spiritual ingrates, and when you become a spiritual ingrate, then God abandons you to your grave-like, corrupt thinking. God handed these people over to a corruption that arose out of their minds in the form of sexual perversion – a particular kind of sexual perversion that has horrendous consequences. Once you reject God-consciousness (or gospel-hearing), you start developing hardness upon the soul, whether you are a believer or an unbeliever. The result is a mental blackout.

**This can Happen to Believers**

Please remember that this condition of the blackout at the mind (while it is the normal status of the unbeliever), can also become the status of the believers. In Ephesians 4:17-18, you can read about the same thing happening to Christians. In this case, your emotions take over your soul; your mind is filled with corruption; and, therefore, the will acts accordingly.

Any young person who grows up in a home with a father and a mother who have darkened minds will be a young person who will be pleasure oriented, generally. He will be undisciplined in his desires. He will have been reared by parents who have the feeling that permissiveness is the thing – that to let your kids do what they want to do is what is the desirable thing to do. The older your children become, the harder it is to square off, and to recognize that permissiveness is the worst thing in the world, because the bigger they become, the more they scream. When they were little, they used to scoot and scatter when you told them to do things. The more they stretch out, so that the closer they come to your eyeball level, the more ready they are to debate the issue with you, and to have a shootout with you.

Every father should practice shootouts in the mirror. He should almost regularly stand in the bedroom in his mirror, and practice the fast-draw, so that when his kids face him, he can get them right between the eyes every time. I guarantee that you're going to need to be able to do it. Don't expect your wife to do it. In fact, she'll get a lot of trouble, because she'll point the thing the wrong way and shoot herself almost every time, and give you a lot of trouble at home. So, don't expect her to do it. Just be prepared to do it yourself. That's your responsibility.

I am not kidding you. People with darkened minds rear children who are lazy slobs; who are incompetents; who have no initiative; who are pleasure oriented; and, they're undisciplined in their desires. What they want, they get. Where did they learn that? Well, it's because their parents reared them that way. If they screamed and squawked hard enough, they got their way. These kids are a product of their parents. They go off to college, and they become the radicals that burn down schools, and that look for anarchy. They respond to animal level lifestyles: sex; drugs; alcohol; violence; and, the whole thing.

**King David**

One of the things that was splendid about David as a youth, and as a grown man as the ruler of Israel, was that he recognized the critical role of doctrine (divine enlightenment) in his thinking. In Psalm 73:22, David says, "So foolish was I, and ignorant. I was like a beast before You:" "So foolish was I, and ignorant. Of what? Of God's viewpoint. David said, "I was like an animal." That's exactly what happens. We were children who are animals. They're acting and living like animals because of the fact that we have denied them the restraint that they need, and the viewpoints of the Word of God – the principles of the Word of God. David recognized that the reason he didn't act like an animal was because he had doctrine.

So, where did these people go in verse 24? It says that they go to dishonor their bodies between themselves." The word "dishonor" is the Greek word "atimazo." The word "atimazo" means "to treat shamefully to disgrace." In other words, they disgraced their bodies. They treat themselves shamefully. In the noun form, this word is used in 1 Corinthians 11:14 to describe a man who has long hair. A man with long hair is described as one who is "atimazo." He is an animal-level creature. He is shameful and in disgrace because of that. This is in the present tense so that these people were constantly desiring to treat their bodies shamefully. But notice that this is passive voice, which means that they were helpless victims. They were being carried on by a condition of the mind, and they couldn't help themselves.

One of the things that's happening from Berean tapes, which is putting an additional burden on this ministry and on me personally (for which I do need your prayers), is that people are beginning to call on the phone, and they are beginning to come out of the blue. I had one this afternoon. People want counseling. They want advice. They hear our tapes, and the sense that what they have heard is God's viewpoint, and they know that someplace in there is the answer to problems they have.

The horrendous problems that people have on the basis of shamefully treating their bodies is fantastic. Somebody recently told me, "Now, here's the problem I have. It's a matter of a physical problem, and I have to spell it out." And I said, "Spare me. It's not necessary," because I don't even want to hear it. I don't need the grimy details. I've already read them in the Bible. Consequently, I know how all this works. But it is fantastic how people are coming and saying, "What can I do about this? I've got this problem and I hate it. I need to resolve this some way." Well, what they're telling me is that because their minds are darkened to doctrine, they are passive, helpless victims to this particular physical problem.

That's exactly what the passive tense means here on "atimazo." It's an infinitive with an article, which indicates that this is the result. The result of their darkened minds is shameful treatment of their bodies. The word "own" is not in the Greek. It does have the word "themselves:" "dishonor themselves (their bodies) between." This is again the little word "en." Here, it means "with." They're dishonoring their bodies with themselves – with one another. A society filled with darkened minds is abandoned by God to the consequences of that delusion. And they go into the most perverted kind of sexual relationships with one another. The reference here, as we shall see, is to one of the most degrading, corrupt expressions of sexual sins in the form of homosexuality and lesbianism.

Verse 25 gives us the reason why God abandons these people: "Who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen." The word "who" is the subject of this sentence. We may translate it as "they." It refers to these people of verse 24 with their darkened minds. They were of such a type that they exchanged. The word "exchanged" is the Greek word "metallasso." "Metallasso" simply means "to make a swap." The idea is that they swap something. It's in the aorist tense. There's a point where they were negative to the Word of God, and they swapped God's enlightenment for a darkened mind. It is active voice. They did it on their own choice. It is indicative – a statement of fact. These people took divine enlightenment (God's divine viewpoint), and they exchanged it for darkness.

**They Exchanged the Truth of God for a Lie**

Now, what did they come to? Well, as we shall see, in verse 26 (and it's ladies first here in Scripture) – first they deal with the female perverted sex sin, which is lesbianism. And then the next verse deals with homosexuality – male perversion. But you notice that both of these begin with a corruption that originates with exchanging the truth of Bible doctrine for the lie of Satan. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

**Nobody is Born a Homosexual**

So, sexual perversion of the homosexual and lesbian type is not primarily, and first of all, a physical problem, as we are often told. It is, first of all, a soul problem. Remember that nobody is born a homosexual. Nobody is born a lesbian. They are *made*, and they are made that as a result of something that happens in the soul. And what happens in the soul finally comes to a point of such darkness that this person is exchanging God's truth for this darkness, and acting upon that darkness. And it inevitably leads to moral degeneration.

You have it everywhere in our country today – in an open, unabashed way on this particular sin. This gives us an indication of how darkened is the mentality of American society. People tolerate this instead of rising up in indignation. They tolerate this kind of sin because the darkness in their minds does not enable them to see how horrendous and dangerous this is to themselves. Sex perverts are not born that way. They are made. Perversion is a disease of the soul. It's a moral cancer, and it spreads.

**Perverting the Truth**

What these people are perverting is what is called "the truth." This is the Greek word the "aletheia." The "aletheia" is a word that means "the reality." This is the Greek equivalent of our modern expression: "telling it like it is." The "aletheia" is reality. It is the way things are. In the spiritual realm, it refers, of course, to that precious combination of Bible doctrine. This is the "aletheia" – the truth of God. He is the source, and these people have exchanged this for a lie: "pseudos." And here, the Greek has the article "the" before it. So, it means *the* lie. In this case, it is the particular lie which he is now going to describe, which was worshiping creatures: birds; animals; snakes; reptiles; and, lizards, and calling them God, instead of worshiping the God who created them. Again, I remind you that any negative volition from any source is exchanging the truth of God for a lie on that particular point.

**They can't Worship the True God**

So, you may have heard something here already about which you say, "I don't like that. That offends me. I reject it." If what you have heard is the truth, you are exchanging that truth for a lie, because what you believe, in contrast to that truth, is a lie. And to exchange the truth of God for a lie is to put yourself on the path that leads to physical perversion. This kind of exchange breeds its own judgments in the darkened mind. The emotions will dominate you. You will fall into spiritual reversionism. And, worst of all, with a mind that's darkened, you can't worship the true God, no matter how many forms and rituals you go through, because to worship God, you have to know the truth. You have to know doctrine.

**They Become Animals**

Well, the ultimate result of darkness in the mind is to become an animal. That's a very critical point that I hope you will understand. If you grasp that, you will see why people are acting the way they do in our society today. They are animals because they are not enlightened in God's viewpoint.

So, what did these people do? "They worshiped," and the word is "sebazomai." "Sebazomai" means "to honor religiously," or "to treat with a sense of awe and reverence." And what are they treating religiously? Verse 23 tells us: "Birds; four-footed beasts; and, creeping things. They are treating them with awe and reverence as deity. "Sebazomai" (the word for "worship") is in the aorist tense – the point at which the heathen began worshiping these animals, as we read of the man in the book of Isaiah. It is passive. They are helpless victims of their darkened minds. And it's a statement of fact.

**Religious Service to Animals**

The result of this worship is that: "They served also 'latreuo,'" which means "service of a religious nature." They perform religious service to these animals. It is aorist – when they expressed their devotion. It is active – by choice. And it is indicative – a statement of fact.

If you were to live in India today, and your house were to be overrun with rats, you couldn't kill the rats as a true Hindu. Why? Because the rat represents deity. You couldn't kill the cow even if you were starving. And cows walk all over, eating most of the grain that the United States sends over there to feed the people. But the cow is sacred. These people are, in effect (because of their darkened minds), worshiping the rats. They have a beautiful temple, by the way, over there to the rats. It is a very beautiful temple – the rat temple. But you can't touch the creatures because they worship them. And that's the world we have. They worshiped and they served the creature. And that's the "ktisis," which, in Romans 1:20, was the act of creating. Here it signifies the product of creation; that is, the creatures – the men and the animals.

**The Creator**

They did this "more than the Creator," and that's the word "ktizo." You have a little play on words here in the Greek. "Ktizo" is "the Creator," or "the creating One." Here it refers, of course, to the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that He was the Creator. John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; and, Hebrews 1:10 tell us that He did the creating. This is an aorist participle. So, God's creating comes as the first action starts creating. Then after God made the creation, they exchanged it for a false worship for a false service: "Who exchanged the truth (the doctrine of God the Father) for lie, and worship and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen."

**Amen**

The word "amen" is the Greek word "amen." That's a transliteration from the Hebrew into the Greek, and we also transliterate as "amen" from the Hebrew into the English. "Amen" simply means "so be it." Sometimes you've sat in a church service or a prayer meeting, and you may hear someone say "Amen." What they are saying is, "I agree. I concur." What you're saying is, "So be it, God."

Verse 26 now comes to the first of the gruesome part. This is the part you're not supposed to read in public, and maybe not even talk about: "For this cause, God gave them up unto vile affections, for even their women did exchange the natural use for that which is against nature." "For this cause" is the Greek word "dia." Here it means "on account of this." On account of what? Well, on account of what was done in verse 25, where they exchanged the truth about God for a lie. So, they worship the animals he made instead of the God who made them. Here we have again the word God with the definite article, "*the* God," meaning the Father. "He gave them up." This is the same word that we had before in verse 24. Here again, "He was handing them over." It's aorist active infinitive. At the point where they went dark in their minds, God made the decision. It was His purpose (infinitive) to give them over to the consequences of their uncleanness.

"For this cause, God the Father handed them (these darkened-minded heathen) even up to their vile." This is the word "atimia" in the Greek. The word "vile" means dishonor or disgrace. Then "their affections" is the Greek word "pathos." This refers to a certain kind of affection. This is a word that describes the affection of the mind. They had a mental love for what? They had a mental love for disgracing and dishonoring their own bodies.

**Females**

"For even:" The word "even" if not in the Greek. It just says "for their women." Here is something interesting. It is not the word "women." We would expect the normal word for a woman here, which you know is "gune" in the Greek – or the word for "wife." But instead, it is a different word here. It's the Greek word "thelus," and "thelus" means "female." This is a word without affection. This is a word without warmth. It doesn't carry any of the warm qualities, like when you say "wife," or you say "woman." This is simply a female, and this word is actually applied to animals. Here God the Holy Spirit is writing the Bible, and He's using words that are appropriately describing what these people have become. He no longer describes these creatures as women, but rather they are simply animals, and therefore, of the female gender, and that's how they're described. The word is simply "female."

**Her Natural Use**

They again exchange (that same word we had before): "They swap their natural." "Their natural" is "phusikos," and "phusikos" means "according to nature." You can see how we get the word "physical" from this. We get the word "physics," having to do with the natural order of the material world. This is the inborn, natural pattern of a female that is referred to here by this word "phusikos." This is that which is her natural pattern. And this has with it the word "use:" her natural "chresis." This word is "use," but it is better viewed as "pattern:" her natural pattern as a woman. Her natural pattern in what?

**Lesbianism and Homosexuality**

Well here in this context, it is in sex. It is referring to this creature, who is simply referred to as a female now, has left her natural pattern of sex. What is the natural pattern? It is not God's order for a woman to find fulfillment in a woman. And it is not God's pattern, as we shall see in a moment, for a man to find fulfillment in the body of a man. Those are horrendous, revolting things. You just don't know how revolting this is until you come up against it, and I mean until you come up against it on a propositional basis.

Has that ever happened to you? This sort of thing is so widespread and so commonly accepted that there are all kinds of people that you look at every day, and you don't realize that they are practicing perverts of this kind. It is not God's order for a woman to find fulfillment in a woman's body, or for a man to find fulfillment in a man's body. And yet, that's what happens when the mind receives a blanket of darkness. Don't kid yourself. It's going to go there. It may not go to such a perverted extent, but it's going to go to immorality, and there is no place else that it will go. I'm trying to impress you with the dangers of not staying in the practice of breathing in doctrine into your soul, and keeping the supply of doctrine (your spiritual oxygen) flowing. What we are reading about now can happen, in variant form, with anybody.

"For this cause, God handed them over unto vile affections (corrupt) affections, for even their women did swap the natural use (that after nature) for that which is against (or contrary to nature). Again, this is the word "phusis" – the natural functioning of a person, or the natural functioning of a thing. Here it is the normal order for female sex which is in view, which is to be heterosexual. A woman is not to find satisfaction through the practice of autoerotism through her own body (on her own); she is not to find satisfaction through lesbianism (through the services of another female); she is not to find it in premarital sex; and, in the marriage state, she is not to find it beyond anybody except her husband. That's the normal order.

That's what these words mean here – "the natural use." That's what's normal. It is not a wrong thing for us to describe homosexuality and lesbianism as a perversion, even though they scream bloody murder. The gay lib wants you to use the word "deviates," because it kind of makes it sound nicer. But it is, according to the Word of God, one of the most degrading kind of perversions. It is a really terrible thing to discover that God has abandoned you, and that God has let a person go to the consequences of his darkened mind.

The men are just as bad once the mind becomes darkened, and we will look at that next time.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1975

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