***God can only Bless His Own Absolute Righteousness
RO79-02***

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We're looking at Romans 6:19-23, and our subject is "Two Kinds of Slavery." This is the second segment on that topic.

**Grace and Slavery**

The apostle Paul, we have seen, uses the human institution of slavery to illustrate the nature of divine grace in salvation. Slavery is characterized by bondage, while grace is associated with freedom. For this reason, slavery and grace do not seem to go together.

So, the apostle Paul calls us to make some comment about that obvious fact. When you talk about slavery, and you talk about grace, you're talking about bondage and freedom, and it seems odd to illustrate freedom with an institution of bondage. But what Paul wants to convey here is the fact of authority over a Christian who is under grace, which actually restrains that believer from evil. Thus, the unbeliever is a slave under the authority of the sin nature, while the Christian is a slave under the authority of the Holy Spirit. Enslavement to the sin nature results and death, while enslavement to the Holy Spirit results in absolute righteousness and true freedom.

**Position**

Paul here is referring to the position of each person before God rather than to his actual actions. Again, I remind you that at this particular point in the book of Romans we're talking about a person's position – the fact that a person has the position of slavery to the sin nature, or he has the position of slavery to the Holy Spirit. We are not talking about how he acts under that position. That comes later.

Paul is still stressing the positional factor. Paul uses the slavery illustration because it does convey a spiritual principle to people in a way that they can understand, and that's the problem. People suffer from a natural human incapacity for grasping divine viewpoint principles. It is not natural for us to be able to think the way God thinks. Reason has been disoriented by the fall into sin, and people consequently, reach human viewpoint conclusions which are false – conclusions which don't fit reality: the reality of God's world.

People are always making decisions that don't fit reality. Even you and I, as Christians, if we're not careful, will make decisions which have no relationship to reality at all. They're a fool's world that we have invented for ourselves. We come to certain conclusions; we make certain assumptions; and, then we jump off of that into conclusions that are not true.

**Wisdom**

The problem, however, is not a matter of human IQ. It's not a matter of the natural intelligence capacity. Man with a high IQ is not able to arrive at divine viewpoint truths about salvation. He needs a revelation to be able to do that. For this reason, the apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 1:21 says, "For after that (or for since), in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God. It is pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save them that we believed. Paul says that by human intelligence capacity, you do not come to know God. In fact, God says that you come to know Him by what the world considers foolishness – the content of Biblical revelation.

The unbeliever is incapable of arriving at divine viewpoint principles by human IQ alone. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "But the natural man (the man who operates on human IQ alone, receives not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. Neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." I don't care how high an IQ you have, you cannot, by that IQ alone, arrive at spiritual understanding. Human viewpoint wisdom about salvation, by the best IQ (the finest IQs), as they try to decide how a person can be accepted with God comes up with a plan of salvation that is nothing but fouled up foolishness.

**Human Viewpoint Ignorance**

Again, in 1 Corinthians 1:19:20, Paul says, "And it is written. I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I'll bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" And when man and this human viewpoint wisdom tries to come up with a plan of salvation, it is simply foolishness. Human viewpoint wisdom is ignorance as far as God is concerned.

1 Corinthians 3:19 says, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He has taken the lives in their own craftiness." When you come up with human-IQ wisdom in spiritual things, it's strictly dumb. Human viewpoint wisdom arrogantly despises divine viewpoint wisdom – that's the most terrible thing about it– that the person who is functioning on human viewpoint thinks he is so right that he arrogantly despises God's thinking (divine viewpoint).

Notice that Proverbs 1:7 says, "That the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. But fools despise wisdom and instruction." The beginning of wisdom is the knowledge of God (the fear of God). That's where our real understanding begins. If you do not respect God, and what God has to say, then you are incapable of having divine wisdom.

Human viewpoint ignorance, however, as I say, thinks, that it is right. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes. But he that hearkens unto the council is wise." The way of a fool is not a low IQ person. This is a high IQ person who is disoriented to God's point of view; who thinks it's foolishness; and, who rejects divine revelation.

So, real wisdom is what, after all? Real wisdom (real intelligence) is knowing God and his revealed Word, the divine viewpoint principles that He has made known to us.

For this reason, Psalm 14:1 makes this statement: "The Fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all they that do His commandments. His praise endureth forever. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The fool with the high IQ has said there is no God out there. But the person with real intelligence (with real wisdom) is the one who says, "He's out there, and I respect Him, and I have received good understanding because of what? Because I do His commandments. I know what He thinks, I know His doctrines.

**Ignorant Intellectuals**

So, as we have pointed out to you before, the world is filled with ignorant intellectuals. And maybe from these verses in Proverbs and Psalms, you'll see a little more in the truth of that. The world is filled with ignorant intellectuals. And if you are ever to be a wise person, you must understand that when some leading politician in Washington opens his mouth to speak, only on rare occasions are you listening to anything but the brains of an ignorant intellectual. Only the most unusual circumstances when religious leaders even open their mouths in this country, yow are listening to anything other than the brains of an ignorant intellectual. The opinion makers and the policy makers of our country are almost in toto ignorant intellectuals. Why? Because they have a low IQ? No, they're intellectuals, all right. But because they do not have wisdom, and wisdom, in Scripture, means orientation to divine viewpoint. And I don't care how smart you are by natural capacity. The Bible describes you in that capacity without the stabilizing influence of God's doctrines as a fool.

So, the nation is ruled by fools; our society is entertained by fools; our educational system is taught by fools; our social relationships are established by fools; and our national goals and policies are established by fools– ignorant intellectuals. They make the decisions; and, they make the opinions. And only a few of you, like yourselves, who have been warned about this, and who have been instructed in the Word of God so that you can see this isn't just some wild preacher ranting and raving, but that there is a basis for this and the Word of God itself, that this is a basis in truth, only a few of you can listen to these people and recognize what they are and what they're doing. And you're not taken in by their words.

It makes it very frustrating, doesn't it? If you've got some heartfelt desire to see the country go someplace, and to see our society go someplace, it's very discouraging. But I'll tell you a great mistake that a lot of people make. And that is to pretend that it's not so. Then you join the ignorant intellectuals. The first step in dealing with the disease is not to pretend you don't have cancer. The first step in dealing with it is to say, "I've got cancer now. Now there's where I stand, and wherever else I go, and that's the beginning point. And the desperation that I find in so many people is to say. "No, these things are not so," and to deny them is only to lead you to a certain doom.

In Romans 6:15, we began a new section of this with a second question (a second point of opposition) which has been proposed. Human viewpoint ignorance claims that since a Christian is under grace and not under Law, he can abandon himself to evil living. And that was the suggestion which was made in Romans 6:5. We are in the process of answering that objection.

Freedom from a Law system does not mean freedom from divine righteousness. Since Paul, however, I point out to you, is speaking to Christians here in this passage in Romans 6:15, the verse we're looking at, he is speaking to Christians, this indicates to us that we too suffer potentially from this incapacity of understanding God's grace system of authority.

**Salvation by Grace Alone**

So, first of all, today, let's look at the perspective of Christians, the problem that Christians have (and you know scores of them) in accepting the greatest method. Vast numbers of Christians lack grace orientation. They simply cannot accept the idea of no human doing in securing divine blessings. Many, consequently, are not even saved, because they extend there no-human-doing resistance to the point of doing something to be saved. So, they throw in the process of some ordinance like water baptism; taking the Lord's Supper; confessing of sins; or, any number of human actions – raising a hand in a meeting; or, walking down an aisle, all of which are designed to enable them to feel that they have paid something to God in order to be saved. And of course, when they think that, they're not only not oriented to grace, but they have completely undermine all possible salvation for themselves. Grace orientation is the basic factor in being saved, and it is the basic factor in building a spiritual maturity structure in your soul after you are saved.

Some believers fear that Christians under the freedom of grace will indulge in evil living. So, they resort to legalisms to try to control people, and try to control themselves. I want to remind you that the Bible teaches us, and what Paul is teaching us here is, that grace is God's only channel of divine blessing, from salvation to rewards in heaven. And notice that I didn't stop at salvation. Grace is the only channel of God's blessings upon you, from salvation to divine gracious rewards when you kneel before Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**God's Holiness**

The reason for this is that God's perfect justice can only allow blessing to one source, and one source alone. And that source is God's absolute righteousness. God's holiness is His absolute righteousness and His perfect justice. God's perfect justice can only allow blessings to one place, and that is to absolute righteousness. That's the only thing that God's perfect justice can bless. And you better learn that. It's a very critical importance truth.

The psalmist has declared that for us. 97:2 puts it in this way. Clouds and darkness are around about Him (God). Righteousness (absolute righteousness) and justice (perfect justice) are the habitation (or a better translation is 'the foundation of His throne):" "Absolute righteousness and perfect justice are the foundation of His throne." The foundation of all of God's administration of the universe is what we call His Holiness – His absolute righteousness and His perfect justice. That is the basis upon which God does everything. So, here is the throne of God. And the throne of God is based upon this holiness. Everything he does is structured on his holiness.

So, when it comes to blessing you and me, perfect justice of God will only allow Him to bless one thing, and one thing alone, and that is absolute righteousness. So, without absolute righteousness, there is no basis for receiving God's favor and blessing. Perfect justice will not permit it. No unbeliever, therefore, can ever be blessed by God, because no unbeliever possesses the one factor he must have for God to be able to bless. And that is absolute righteousness.

**God Can Only Bless His Own Absolute Righteousness (and He Imputes that to Believers)**

You can think about it like this: You can think about it as a target. At the center point of the target is absolute righteousness, and the arrow that is shot is perfect justice. There is only one place that the perfect justice of arrow of God is shot, and that is right into the bull's eye of absolute righteousness. And there is no place else that it will go. Fallen man can in no way secure this target of absolute righteousness for himself. It has to be given to him. The channel of that delivery is grace. It is the grace channel that delivers blessings to absolute righteousness. It is the grace of God that gives us the target of absolute righteousness. So, you may picture it with grace as the channel, and now perfect justice, seeking to deliver blessings to us, must come through the channel of grace. It is this channel that gives us blessings, because God can only bless His Own absolute righteousness. And when you and I, by the grace of God, have had absolute righteousness imputed to us, we are the targets of divine blessings. That's the only reason we're the targets of divine blessings.

So, you have divine justice at the giving end; you have an absolute righteousness at the receiving end; and, you have God's divine grace as the channel with which that comes to us. The lost sinner receives absolute righteousness by believing in Jesus Christ as personal Savior. That is an act of faith – not an act of works. It is an act of grace. The blessing that a believer receives from God, therefore, is never because something he does to deserve it. No blessing comes to you because of something you have done to deserve it. God's blessings are always directed toward you and me for one reason – because you have absolute righteousness imputed to your credit. And grace is the channel of that delivery. Isn't that a relief? With all of our failures; with all of our breakdowns; and, with all of our stupidity and incapacity, there is nothing that can keep the blessings of God from coming to you *except* when you plug up this channel of blessing with your own stupid carnality. When negative volition toward divine viewpoint at some point in your life comes into play and you clog up the channel. Then perfect justice comes up against that carnality, and it deflects. Grace cannot deliver because the path to absolute righteousness has been clogged up by your breakdown in temporal fellowship.

You're very fortunate to be here today. You may get clarified for you one of the basic fundamental factors of functioning Christianity that I guarantee you most Christians are totally ignorant of. And even the Christians who have been clued in on it, have a hard time remembering and functioning upon it. And I'll guarantee that this is one piece of information the devil is going to try to put you to sleep on in a hurry. This he does not want you to know. He does not want you to understand that it isn't who and what you are that brings you divine blessings. It is the fact that divine righteousness has been imputed to you, and that is the target of blessing. And that is the only reason God blesses you.

**Confession of Known Sin**

However, you can hold off the blessings that he's ready to just unload on you because of carnality, because you have violated temporal fellowship, and taking yourself out of the inner circle of Christian fellowship. Now, of course, the way to clear up this blockade is simply confession of known sin. Simply go to the Lord and say, "Father, I have grieved you with this willful sin in my life, and it is wrong, and I'm done with it, and I confess it. I have quenched You, Father, because I have resisted waiting upon you; following your leading; and, responding to your directions. You've made your will known to me, and I said no." And that is quenching God the Holy Spirit: "I have resorted to my own human capacities; my legalisms; and, my impressions that you're going to bless me because of something I do; something that I give you; or, some way that I act. And I've not been walking by means of the Holy Spirit. And I've broken my fellowship."

Whatever it is, make the confession, and get that plug out of there. Get that blockade out of there, so that once more, with that going, and with that out of the way, God's blessings can just go exploding to you through the channel of grace, to the absolute righteousness which he has imputed to you. All systems of legalism to gain blessings from God are human viewpoint delusions; and, they ensure, as a matter of fact, that you receive no divine blessings. All blessings come from perfect justice to absolute righteousness. And grace is the channel. And when you keep it open, it's going to flow.

This blockade of carnality is a very serious thing. While you maintain temporal fellowship, nothing can keep the grace channel from delivering God's will and God's blessing to you. Nothing. As long as this grace channel is kept open, nothing can keep God's will from being delivered to you. Nothing, nothing, nothing. And anytime you think that God's will somehow is not being delivered to you, you can just count on the fact that you've got your channel blocked up with some carnality, because when that channel is open, God's will and God's blessings can in no way be denied you. It's going to come through, not because of you, and not because of how you acted, and not because of what you are, but because absolute righteousness resides in you, and God can bless that, and that alone.

However, the rebellious carnality in a Christian will again incapacitate you to understanding and functioning on divine viewpoint principles, and that's what happens. This incapacitates you just as when you were a slave of the sin nature. You put yourself in the same incapacity that Paul is apologizing almost for using this slavery illustration. He says, "I'm doing that, though it seems incompatible with grace, to try to get across a point about authority, because it is so hard for people to understand the truth. They have a natural incapacity."

Well, you can put yourself in the same position as an unbeliever. The message of God's will does not then come through to you through the channel of grace. As a carnal Christian under that condition, you will defend and justify your actions, and you will do so in the face of biblical condemnation, and you will do so in the face of all advice from people who have some knowledge of God's ways. As a matter of fact, when you get in that condition where the channel of God's blessing and will has been blocked, you'll be very careful to avoid the people who might expose you to yourself in the condition in which you find yourself. That's why carnal Christians really think they're right with God in their conduct, because they do not permit themselves to be exposed to the truth about what they're really doing, and where they really stand. In reality, all divine blessings have ceased to these people. And the message of God's thinking just does not come through. But they justify their actions.

**The Grace System of Perception**

The problem is Christians functioning on the grace system of perception. Most of you understand that. And we're not going to go into that today. But it very simply starts with the fact that God has given you completed Scripture; He's given you a living human spirit; and He's given you the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is all the combination you need for learning spiritual phenomena. He then gives you the local church organization. He gives you the setting with a with an ability teacher of the pastor-teacher gift to instruct you in spiritual viewpoint. And you now have the full gamut of all you need to be able to develop a spiritual IQ (to develop spiritual understanding). That is the grace system. It is not dependent on your natural IQ. It is dependent upon your openness and willingness to learn. It is dependent upon your willingness to be in church where you're instructed. It is your willingness to spend time with the Word of God on your own during the week.

There is great variation, however, between Christians relative to this matter of functioning on the grace system that God has provided. And it results in quite obvious differences between believers. Hebrews 5:11-13 say, "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing you are dull of hearing. For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and have become such as have need of milk and not of solid food. For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe." And here the writer of Hebrews is talking to people who, at one time, had some spiritual maturity. They blocked the channel of grace blessing, and they deteriorated in their capacity to understand the will of God for themselves. They deteriorated in the capacity to advise others because of the condition in which they are. So, Paul says, "You should have been to the place where you could be responsible as reliable teachers."

There is no greater tragedy (Oh, what a tragedy!) than when somebody who is looked upon as a teacher, but who himself has got his channel of blessing clogged up, and then somebody who is in desperate straits and needs some direction goes to him and gets the wrong direction. That is hell on earth. Don't think that that doesn't happen. That happens all the time. That's why you have to be careful of the human advisers that you turn to, because if that human adviser has a clogged channel of blessing himself, he's out of touch with reality, and he's going to give you a Bunco advice. He's going to enter into your very sin. He's going to enter unsympathetically with your very evil, instead of condemning you for it, and facing up to what you're doing.

You ought to be teachers of the Word. Instead, you're back to sucking on your milk bottles like all the other toothless, bald-headed, fat, wrinkled, little kids. And you've grown up where you oughtn't to be like that anymore. So, there's great variation among Christians in their consistency of functioning on the grace system.

Those who don't, nevertheless arrogantly think that they know the will of God. One thing they like to do is pick on the preacher for getting through to them with God's message in one way or another. Very often he doesn't even know he's getting through. But that doesn't make any difference, as if that's going to change their dealing with the truth. Christians pretend to be functioning on the grace system when in fact they're negative to the guidance they receive from it. At some point, they've clogged it off. Christians are capable of deceiving themselves with a line of false logic to justify their carnal actions. And don't ever forget it.

**Spiritual Comprehension**

So, the whole problem of spiritual comprehension is the disorientation of man's mind by nature, from divine viewpoint reality. That's true of unbelievers. It's true potentially of Christians as well. So, God has to break through this mental confusion and ignorance, and he has to do it sometimes by applying pain. And if you haven't learned the God applies pain, then you better learn it, because the one thing He will not tolerate in His family is for this channel of grace blessing to be clogged up. And if you don't flush it out with confession, and get yourself squared away, and get back on track, then I can guarantee you that He's going to bring pain. He's going to bring discipline. He's going to start back-flushing you until the barrier is blown out, and the pipe is free to flow again. He will not tolerate because you are his slave. You are His slave. He will not tolerate you acting as if you were the sin nature slave.

That's why the slavery illustration is indeed a very good one. It conveys the fact that the status under grace slavery means being under the authority of God, which is uncompromising upon us.

**Two Slaveries that you may Choose**

So, Paul says in Romans 6:19 that there are two slaveries that you may choose.

**The Old Slavery**

First, let's look at the old slavery: "I speak after the manner of men (in a human form) because of the weakness of your human capacity; your human nature. For, as you have your members servants to uncleanness, and to iniquity. "The word "for" is the Greek word "gar." It introduces the point of Paul slavery illustration, and what his point was in using this illustration. The word as is "hosper." This word "hosper" is an adverb. It means "just as." Actually, the last part of verse 19 is divided into two. It is a comparison sentence. The first part is introduced by "as;" and, the last part is introduced by the words "even so." So, we're going to have a comparison.

He says, "As," and "hosper" is "as," referring to the past. Later, he's going to talk about the future: "As in the past you have yielded." We've had this word before. Here it is again: "paristemi." "Paristemi" means "to present" or "to place at the disposal of" for the object of service. This is a military term, and it connotes placing under some authority. It is in the aorist sense which looks at your past enslavement to the sin nature as a whole. It's active. This is what you did by choice when you were enslaved to the sin nature. It's indicative – a statement of fact. "Your" refers to the Roman Christian members. Again, we've had this word. It's "melos." This is a noun, and it refers to the parts of the human body, which includes the brain along with the mind.

"As in the past, you used to serve the evil demands of the old sin nature when you were enslaved to the sin nature with the various parts of your physical body." He describes the service that they gave to them as being "servants." This is the word "doulos" – a bad translation. It is not "servants." It is "slaves." It means "enslaved members" here. Enslaved to what?

First of all, they enslaved members are enslaved to what he calls "uncleanness" ("akartharsia".) This is a noun, and it refers here to moral uncleanness. If you want a good word for this, it's "filthy;" or "impure." You delivered yourself to filthiness. The old sin nature slave master demands filth of its slaves, and the slaves today don't call it filth. They call it adult sophistication. They call it adult entertainment. They call it adult jokes. They call it adult stories. They call it adult publications. It's filthiness.

The Bible says that when you're slaves of the sin nature you were characterized by "akartharsia." You were filthy, and your tastes were filthy, and your actions were filthy. And don't try to describe it with some pretty word.

He adds another factor: "And." This is the Greek word "kai," a conjunction adding another factor to describe the condition of slavery in the sin nature. He calls it iniquity. The Greek word is a little more specific. It's "anomia." All you Berean Bible study people, who are in the Greek course, will recognize that the first part of this word is the letter "a," which is a negative that means "no." You will recognize the last part comes from the word "nomos," which is the Greek word for "Law." So, it means "no Law" or "lawlessness." That is the translation of this word. It refers to the rejection of divine viewpoint principles – these which express God's absolute righteousness. Slaves of the sin nature are always rebels against divine viewpoint. They call divine viewpoint fundamentalism. They call divine viewpoint ultra- conservatism. They call divine viewpoint simplistic. But it all comes down to the same thing. They are lawless. They are lawless. They are rebels. Rebels are opposed to rules. Slaves of the old sin nature think that they are actually the ones who are free in their evil. They think they're enjoying life, and finding fulfillment, when in reality what they're experiencing is frustration, unhappiness, and purposelessness.

So, here are the summation of what God says characterizes your life under the sin nature enslavement: filthiness; and, lawlessness. God says that this is what we once were.

The apostle Peter describing this condition in 1 Peter 4:1-5, says, "For as much then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind, for He that had suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that He no longer should live the rest of his time into the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time passed of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the gentiles. When we walked in lasciviousness; lusts; excessive of wine; revelings;, carousing; and, abominable idolatries, in which they think it strange that you run not with them to the same profligacy; speaking evil of you, who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the living and the dead."

**Filthiness and Lawlessness**

The people who are slaves of the sin nature often will ask a believer, "What fun do you have in life? You don't do any of these things that are so much fun to do." Well what in the world do you do for fun? What are they asking you? They're asking you, "How can you enjoy life without filthiness and lawlessness?" That's what they're asking you: Without any filthiness and without any lawlessness, how can you have any fun in life? That is the nature of American society.

Today, we Christians, from time-to-time, struggle to try to clean up this horror, because these are the two words that characterize American society as nothing else, whatever the dignities we want to give them: filthiness; and, lawlessness.

**The Filthiness on Televisions Programs**

The other day, a man from a church in Irving walked up and said, "We'd like to have your congregation join in a nationwide attempt to do something about the filthiness on television programs. He gave me a brochure, and I want to read a little bit of it. I'm going to tell you more about this in the future, because I think they've got a good point. I think they've come up with an idea of putting the screws on the horrors of filthiness and lawlessness and immorality that is presented on television as being the norm, when it is the barnyard morality is the abnormal, and should not be dignified. Here's what it says:

"Dear brethren. This is not a request for financial support. It is, however, an appeal for your assistance in solving n extremely serious problem. The amount of filth, immorality, and sexual perversion being shown on television, as you well know, is increasing at an alarming rate. Ten years ago, most of us would never dream that some of the material currently being shown would ever be accepted for public presentation. If this trend is allowed to continue, we hesitate to imagine what an additional ten years can bring.

"The effects we believe are already unmistakable all across the nation. Even within the church, we seem to be gradually becoming accustomed to the darkness. Unless effective steps to reverse this trend are taken soon, the next few years may well see millions of young minds so completely saturated by such influences that they may have little appetite for spiritual matters. There are a number of recent indications that strong grassroots opposition to such programing is now developing all over the country. This seems clear not only among the more than two million members of the church, but also among tens of millions of additionally morally decent people in various religious and civic organizations who are as disgusted as many of us with the current situation.

"We believe we may now be at a very critical moment in effectively opposing such material. Given the present mood of the country, it may well be possible to strike a spark which can start a nationwide blaze of opposition to such programing. This evaluation is based upon several recent developments.

"One: Sears Roebuck Company, for example, recently dropped their sponsorship of "Three's Company" and "Charlie's Angels" after pressure was brought by concerned citizens groups.

Two: Clorox Corporation has also taken a similar position regarding some of their former programs.

Three: Texaco is reported to have recently told Bob Hope to discontinue jokes about Anita Bryant.

Four: The passage of Proposition 13 has made the public aware that they are far more powerful than they had previously believed.

Five: The PTA has already demonstrated the value of organized action by effectively opposing excessive violence on television. While millions of us sit helplessly by and bemoan the current situation, a relative handful of those with opposing views are systematically influencing the media to an unbelievable degree. Newsweek magazine, for example, recently reported that the writers for a number of major network programs now make it a regular practice to clear their jokes on homosexuality with the Gay Liberation Task Force before they're allowed on the air. This is especially disturbing in view of the fact that during this same period, a number of key figures in the television industry have chosen to virtually laugh in the face of anyone expressing the moral convictions of the great majority of the church, even though we are numerically many times as large as all the homosexual organizations combined."

Then the brochure goes on to explain the campaign that they want to set up nationwide with something like 18,000 congregations that exist in the United States that might be sympathetic to this movement. It is a very simple idea. Don't buy the stuff that the sponsors are selling.

Someplace, I heard one time, that I think is true, is the phrase that says, "Money talks." I think they're going to hear it. You know what they've been telling us: "If you don't like a program, just turn the dial off." Well, do you what that does? That enables them to keep putting the filth and lawlessness through the channels, and it cuts you out of a television program entertainment that you've already paid the set for, and you've already paid through the products you're buying. You're entitled to the program. You're entitled to the entertainment. And they're telling you, "Turn it off," so that you are doing what? You are cutting yourself out of the entertainment you've already paid for. And furthermore, you are putting yourself in a position where you won't really get to see how bad this program is so that you get enraged. They're smart. When they say turn it off, they don't want you to get any madder. You thought it was because they didn't want you to get more polluted, didn't you? They don't care how polluted you are. They just don't want you to give any matter about what they're doing.

The filthy and the lawless world is smart. We'll tell you more about this. We'll give you a chance to join the movement. It'll be interesting to see where it goes.

The old goal of all of this filthiness and lawlessness, Paul says is what? He uses: "For as you have yielded your physical members slaves to filthiness and to lawlessness, unto." The word "unto" is the Greek word "eis," and that means here "a result – resulting in." And then he uses the word "anomia," the word "lawlessness" once more: "Resulting in lawlessness:" – filthiness and lawlessness to result in a lifestyle of lawlessness.

**Arrogance**

The whole purpose of this is slavery to the sin nature so that you become cut off from any divine viewpoint frame of reference – arrogance against God's will and God's thinking, and arrogance against grace, for example, and a rejection of God's method of dealings with us. No God who exercises supernatural power over the universe and over man – that's the arrogance that they want to demonstrate; no communication from God to explain man and creation; no basis for making moral judgments of what is right and wrong, because there's no God upon whose character this is based; and, man as a law unto himself so that he degenerates into the inhumanity of his slave nature.

The world is in complete disorder today as a result of this principle, and getting worse. Filthiness and lawlessness are resulting in a condition of lawlessness. That is the point of it. Lawlessness is taught in the public schools, as we showed you from the quotes we made last time on evolutionary humanism in the public school textbooks.

There are three characteristics of people who have a lawlessness lifestyle. They have unlimited time; they have unending energy; and, they have unmitigated perseverance. That characterizes the people of evil.

Now, the apostle Paul, as we will take up next time, goes to the other side of this comparison. He says, "That's one side – the past." Now for the future, he's going to take up that which should be true of us who are capable of being enlightened by the grace system of perception, and the flow of divine blessing.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

[**Back to the Romans index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/romans.htm)

[**Back to the Bible Questions index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/allarticles.htm)