



Key Notes

Romans 1:18 – 2:4 A Personal Paraphrase

God is upset! The thing that makes him so angry is that people are ignoring the truth they already know. They are living as if he didn't exist! This is ridiculous because since the beginning of time God's power and glory have been as plain as day. And yet these people pretend not to notice! They are too proud to worship him or thank him for all he has done. They pretend to be "intellectuals" but really they are fools. They have swapped the real God for a fake one, a god of their own creation. They can't plead ignorance on this one. Their guilt is obvious.

Yes, God is upset. And he has decided to punish such rebels, not just in the future but now. "You want it, you can have it," he seems to say. He has chosen to stop interfering in their lives with warnings and sermons and simply let them have what they want: sexual freedom.

But look what happened. The wages of sin was more sin. One form of immorality only made them thirsty for more perverse ways to wallow in their "freedom." So God gave them what they wanted. Since normal sexuality no longer satisfied their lusts, God didn't stop them when they began to experiment with twisted and perverse sexuality. The result was gender confusion. Women wanted women. Men wanted men. They swapped natural attractions for unnatural. God punished them by letting them have what they craved.

The consequences were devastating! These people lost all ability to think clearly. Their intelligence became so twisted they could no longer discern truth from error. But this was what they wanted. So God let them have it – a twisted mind! Now they were able to justify and rationalize every imaginable form of wickedness: greed, envy, murder, deception, prejudice, lies, slander, arrogance, contempt, insubordination, betrayal... even brutality. They lay awake at night inventing new forms of self-destructive behaviors. Deep in their hearts they still knew such actions were wrong but this didn't matter. What the heck. They not only refused to stop but they encouraged others to join in.

Now, before you go judging someone else for all the awful things they are doing, stop and think. Are you doing the same things? You'll be doubly guilty before God if you condemn someone else for something of which you yourself are guilty. So beware! Do you really think you will escape God's judgment if you, a mere mortal, condemn others for behavior that you condone in yourself? Doesn't God's grace mean anything to you? Do you despise the fact that he is gentle, kind and rich in mercy? Don't you realize that God is delaying judgment so that *you* will have time to repent?

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