

BIBLE & BAGEL

Romans – Our Common Faith

15 December 2015

Have you ever been asked the question “if God is good and loving and kind why is there so much evil in the world?” In this section we will find the answer, it begins in the previous passage where the Bible tells us that rejected God even though He made it clear through creation that He exists, man refused to submit to Him and chose instead to elevated created beings and make them gods and since man pushed Him away God left mankind to their own devices.

Rom 1:24-32

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. NKJV

God left man on his own because we rejected him and preferred to worship idols rather than the true God. The consequence of this was that human beings began to follow the desire of their flesh and since the flesh is wicked man became wicked as well; one of the major signs of the wickedness of man given here is homosexuality.

When we speak of the “flesh” here we are not speaking simply of the physical body but we must remember that we are tripartite beings made of the body, soul and spirit and all these are interconnected in such a strong way that it is not possible to separate them just as it is impossible to separate Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The urges of our body are transmitted to the soul where decision is made either to follow those urges or reject them.

Since man rejected God, He backed away and the result was that man grew more and more evil, verses 29 to 31 gives us a list of characteristics of a wicked heart, everything from sexual immorality to disobedience of parents is listed and not only do people practice those things but give their approval to those who do and as the Bible said earlier because of all of this the wrath (violent anger) of God is coming upon mankind.

When God removes his hand from a person or nation, that person or nation will suffer greatly if not immediately then in the future. We look at the United States of America today and we see that it was a nation built on a Biblical foundation, their constitution states that they are “one nation under God’ and their money has the words “in God we



trust” printed on it. Yet over many decades they have slowly pushed God away; removing the Ten Commandments from their court houses, legalising and making abortion easily accessible, now legalising same sex marriages and in some places even outlawing preaching against homosexuality. Today this nation is a shadow of what it used to be, mass killings are commonplace, children are out of control because they are raised on human philosophy and psychology rather Biblical principles, all because they have rejected God.

The same was true for God’s people, Israel, they clamoured for a human king and when Saul brought the matter before God, He told him to give them what they wanted because they had rejected God from being their kingⁱ. This eventually resulted in the kingdom being divided and eventually taken into exile. Whilst two tribes did return to the land, ten tribes were lost among the nations (although they are now being found).

As Christ’s body in the world we are called to shine like lights in the darkness, to stand for the things that please God. This often means standing against the trends of the world and standing up God’s standards, not going with the flow of the world. This can make us unpopular. We may think that we can be neutral and not take a stand but God said we are either for Him or against Him, if we not with Him we are against Himⁱⁱ.

Choose today whose side are you on.

ⁱ 1 Samuel 8:7
ⁱⁱ Matthew 12:30

