



WHEN GOD GAVE UP

Romans 1:24-32

Life Group Study -- Week of December 2, 2018

Memorize.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:24-25

Open. Name one thing that you would like to do or intend to do differently this year to enhance the ways you observe Christmas, and share why that change matters to you.

Study. Read Romans 1:24-32.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions did it raise for you, if any?

What phrase appears three times in this passage (verses 24, 26, 28)?
What does it mean?

In what specific way(s) does this phrase express more specifically the statement in verse 18 that introduces and overarches this passage?

In verses 24-25, to what did God give them up? For what reason? What is "the lie" to which Paul is pointing in verse 25?

Why does Paul present sexual expression as a matter of *worship*?

To what did God then give them up in verses 26-27? For what reason?

How do you interpret Paul's use of the words "natural" and "unnatural" ("*contrary to nature,*" ESV) in verse 26? Does he mean "*their personal nature*" or the laws of nature -- nature as God designed and ordered it (compare Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:4-6)? Why does the way we answer that question matter in the current cultural climate?

What might Paul be describing with the phrase, "and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error"? Compare 1 Corinthians 6:18.

To what did God then give them up in verse 28? On what basis?

What point do you think Paul is making in verse 29 by his use of the phrases, "*They are full...*" and "*They are filled...*"?

In verse 32, what do they know? What do they do? What do they approve? Compare Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6. Is it human nature to look for others to share in our sin?

Taking a sneak peak ahead to Romans 2:1-5, why is it easier to say "they" than "we" or "me"? Compare 3:23. Why is the gospel truly good news for everyone?

Remember to pray for, and share Christ with your

