

Blessed By Conviction – Romans 1:16-32

Bible Study ~ 5/4/16

Grace Church of Lockeford

The verses that serve as the premise of this study are found in *Ephesians 1:3-6* especially v. 3. So what are they? That is what we are going to look at over the coming weeks. I have no idea how long this study will take us. We are going to work through the various Epistles and examine blessings as they come up. We begin in Romans 1 where we learn about the blessing of conviction. **First we see that...**

1. Conviction Prevents A Darkened Heart vv. 16-21

Salvation is the basis for conviction vv. 16-17

The gospel, the good news of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection which paid the penalty for sin, this is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. In the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, the just live by faith. Faith in Christ is a product of the convicting ministry of the HS (*John 16:18*). He convicts us of sin and our need of a Savior. Those who do not believe face God's wrath.

The unbeliever suppresses the truth vv. 18-19

Ungodliness and unrighteousness is lived out while at the same time, truth is suppressed. They have resisted or rejected conviction and so they suppress what they have been shown of God. The result is that they reject what God has revealed. This rejection leads to darkness.

The rejection of God results in a darkened heart vv. 20-21

The reality of God's existence, His attributes, power, and Godhead are clearly seen through creation. **S**omeone tell me an attribute of God that we see in Creation? Immutability – doesn't change. Though seasons change, they keep coming. Earth keeps spinning. Etc. **Secondly we learn that...**

2. Conviction Prevents Corruption vv. 22-27

Paul is drawing a contrast. Those who have accepted Christ, those who have been justified by faith, do not fall into these categories. But those who reject him fall victim to three forms of corruption. **First...**

Corrupted minds vv. 22-23

They think they are wise, but their rejection of God makes them fools. They take the glory of God and instead of worshiping Him, worship images like men and animals. Paul presents this as the product of foolishness. What is his basis for this? *Proverbs 9:10*. If you do not have the fear of the Lord, you do not have wisdom. Fear of the Lord is the starting place. **Second...**

Corrupted physical desires vv. 24-25

Uncleanness = idea of unrestrained. No moral compass. The desires of their heart are w/o the normal limitations of morality. Not just sexual things here. God "gives them up to this" He allows them to pursue this degradation. The result is that they dishonor their bodies. They make an exchange, a trade. The truth of God, for a lie. This is deliberate and willing. They serve the creature not the blessed forever creator. This is the result of their corrupted desire. **Third...**

Corrupted sexuality vv. 26-27

Because of their rejection of God and worship of creation He gives "them up to vile passions." Paul immediately explains what these are. Exchange natural use for unnatural – even in nature we see what is normal. They do what they should be ashamed of and receive the consequences of their actions. Because we have been blessed with the conviction of the HS we believe and thus escape all this. **The last thing we learn is that...**

3. Conviction Prevents A Debased Mind vv. 28-32

The fruits of a debased mind vv. 28-31

The reject God because they do not like to retain Him in their knowledge. The idea is that the knowledge of God serves to convict them of their evil deeds. This is uncomfortable and so they reject Him. The result is that God again gives them over, this time to a debased mind. Debased = the idea is of a coin or metal that is tested and fails the test. Interesting usage in *Hebrews 6:8* “rejected”. Their mind is affected. The result of this mind change is a pursuit of things that are not fitting. Fitting = things that are forbidden or shameful. These things are spelled out in vv. 29-31.

Unrighteousness – things that are opposite of right. Maliciousness – deliberately hurtful, spiteful. Strife – argumentative. Whisperers – about others (gossip). Backbiters – speaking evil of others. Inventors of evil things – they think up new forms of evil to engage in.

All of these things come from a willful rejection of God. A turning away from His conviction! What a blessing conviction is! **Apart from it we face...**

The folly of a debased mind v. 32

They know that God in His righteousness will judge. They know that the practice of these things makes them deserving of death. Yet they practice them and approve of others who practice them! This is where the debased mind takes them.

We are truly blessed by conviction. Conviction keeps us from engaging in these types of behaviors.

CHALLENGE: Embrace conviction and thank God for it!