

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME**

### **UNRIGHTEOUS EXCHANGE**

Romans 1:25- 27 “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

St. Paul says that sinful human beings have been engaged in an unrighteous exchange. The first of these exchanges has been exchanging, trading-in if you will, the worship of the one true Triune God for false gods. In today's devotional verses, Paul addresses the exchange that human beings have been making over the millennia from God's design for male-female sexual relationship to women with women and men with men.

God created men and women to complete one another. (See Genesis 2:18-25) He created them to live together as “one.” And, He created them to reproduce children. (Genesis 1:28) Human beings, in their rebellion against Him have consciously chosen to reject His design for gender, marriage, sexual relationships and family.

Twice in Romans 1:25-27 God's commentary concerning same sex sexual relationships is they are “shameful.” The Greek word means “vile” and “diseased.” Note well the Bible does not approve same sex relationships as is done in society today. They are abhorrent to God! They are a sinful exchange of what He created to be holy and pleasing to Him with lifestyles He specifically condemns.

These same sex relationships are a form of idolatry. They place an emphasis upon the worship of bodies and human relationships rather than the worship of God and obedience of His Word. The sin in these shameful relationships is exchanging God the creators design for men and women for one of their own choosing and making. “They worship created things rather than the Creator.” (Romans 1:25)

Jesus took upon Himself and paid for these shameful sins as He did for all other sins that we human beings commit. All sin is rebellion against God and exchanging His design for something we put in its place. God, nor the teachings of His Word are bigoted. Remember, God hates the sin but not the sinner. His word is to cause men and women in these “shameful” life styles to see their sin, turn away from them, and seek His forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live a chaste and decent life in thought , word, and deed to Your glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Preach you the Word and plant it home  
To men who like or like it not,  
The Word that shall endure and stand  
When flow’rs and men shall be forgot.

We know how hard, O Lord, the task  
Your servant bade us undertake;  
To preach Your Word and never ask  
What prideful profit it may make.

The sower sows; his reckless love  
Scatters abroad the goodly seed,  
Intent alone that all may have  
The wholesome loaves that all men need.

Though some be snatched and some be scorched  
And some be choked and matted flat,  
The sower sows; his heart cries out,  
“Oh, what of that, and what of that?”

Of all his scattered plenteousness  
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,  
And bears a harvest hundredfold:  
“Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!”

Preach you the Word and plant it home  
And never faint; the Harvest Lord

Who gave the sower seed to sow  
Will watch and tend His planted Word.  
(LSB 586)