

## The Perils of Denying Reality (Romans 1:18-32 ESV)

Reality is defined as accepting the world and all about us as it actually is, not how we may want it to be. Yet, most today deny that which their senses make quite evident is real to wrap themselves in a satanically inspired delusion that is much more palatable to them. How did this delusion come about and spread on such a massive scale that we see all about us today? As with most opinions held in the face of abundant evidence to the contrary, it all began with one false premise upon which a series of other false premises were postulated over time. They were devised in an attempt to reinforce that first false premise, which as we shall see incurs the righteous indignation of God against all of mankind who have universally repressed his obvious reality and being.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (Ro.1:18).

When we objectively look at the earth around us and the vast universe above us, we may wonder how everything came about and why anything at all exists instead of absolutely nothing. In the absence of all of today’s delusive human inventions to the contrary, any rational man or woman must accept the declaration of nature that everything around us has been created by a very powerful being beyond that which is visible to our eyes.

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse” (Ro. 1:19,20)

Because that which may be generally known about God has been openly revealed to us through nature, we have no valid excuse to deny Him. When the primary reality of a Supreme Creator is rejected, mankind's imaginations run wild. Since men did not see fit to honor Him any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to think and to do all kinds of unseemly and indecent things.

“Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things” (Ro. 1:22,23).

In years past, men had changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like unto a combination of corruptible man, birds, four-footed beasts, and various creeping things. Today’s “more enlightened men” exclusively worship the ultimate creature, man, the chief of which they envision as being themselves. Professing themselves to be wise in doing so, they become foolish, as their hearts and minds become blinded to all that is true and real.

God has not only revealed Himself to us in nature, He has provided us his written Word that we need not go awry in our imagination, but come to know Him as He truly is. However, the determined deniers of God reject the very first verse of the Bible, which boldly declares that, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Men who deny primary reality must deny this declaration out of

hand because it does not fit into their ignorant sense of an “alternate reality.” Through denying the truth of that very first verse of Holy Scripture, the entire Bible must be rejected as being an inventive book written by foolish men that only contains additional fables.

In their continuing desire to discredit Scripture, which they see as folly, men have invented imaginative ways to explain how everything came into existence apart from accepting the reality of a Supreme Being as the Creator of all things. Today, man’s seductive innovations are built upon the speculative premises of geological developmentalism and in Darwinian evolutionism, in which a human being is merely viewed as a highly evolved animal that developed over time from a primeval slime on a progressively developing earth. Thus, reasoning themselves to be mere animals, men and women began to act as corrupted animals.

“For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error” (Ro. 1:24,25).

Lacking any moral restraint, women exchanged the natural use of their bodies into that which is against their own nature by engaging in prostitution and in the self-degrading practice of lesbianism. Men denied the honorable purpose of the woman as a loving wife and mother of their children, viewing them instead as mere sex objects upon which they can satisfy their lusts. Pornography, widespread today, greatly intensifies that debased view of women. Some men have become so dis-enamored with women, that they burn in their lust toward other men, which is unproductive to their well being, both present and future.

“Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them (Ro. 1:32)

Instinctively, those who engage in such immoral acts know they are toying with premature death, which some suffer through various venereal diseases. Having denied their very purpose for living, homosexuals can produce no offspring to carry on their name. In an attempt to perpetuate their despicable activities as being honorable, they encourage and find pleasure in others who accept and emulate their self-serving acts as being healthy and wholesome. As a consequence of their continual efforts, many countries have legalized “same-sex marriage,” which is a total rejection of the sacred institution that God created for mankind as a union between one man and one woman for the orderly procreation of the human race.

Consequently, the nuclear family, which is the major building block of the greater society, is slowly disappearing. Not surprisingly, children lacking a sound family relationship, built upon unconditional love and commitment within a proper family unit, grew wild and became disobedient to their parents. While attempting to emulate their parent’s corrupt lifestyle, some of them become so full of covetousness and malicious envy that they become demonically-inspired mass murderers.

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless” (Ro. 1:28-31).

Being filled with all unrighteousness, adulterate mankind not only engaged in various forms of sexual perversions, but out of their suppression of the knowledge of God came forth a totally debased mind from which every imaginable form of wickedness sprung forth. Not only do men deny God, they have become resolute haters of Him, spiteful of his mercy, and proud boasters of their sin. Thus, man’s “alternate reality,” in which God does not exist, requires a redefinition of good and evil as a relational “gray area” in which sin is absent from their vocabulary. Nevertheless sin ignored or represented by any other name is still sin, and its consequences remain to be precipitated on society in this life as well as the eternal life to come. Suppressing the knowledge of God’s will, all men became increasingly covetous and malicious; full of envy and greed, and often resorted to murder to gain advantage for their way of life. Likewise, women no longer recognizing the child in their womb as a precious gift of God, ruthlessly seek its surgical destruction out of selfish personal greed.

All of this irrational thinking defines the sad state of human society that we find all around us today, and it all began with a denial of God as a first premise. Although men attempt to avoid thinking about it, there is one ultimate reality that cannot be evaded by desiring it to be otherwise. Every man and woman has an appointment with death, and no amount of wishful thinking can avoid this haunting reality. Moreover, death must be followed by a righteous sentence of judgment coming from their Creator, in which the ultimate peril of denying reality will suddenly become very personal and very very real. Those who have continued to deny and hate God to the very end of their lives must face the eternal fires of Hell, in which they will find no convenient recourse to an imagined “alternate reality.”

If this rebellious nature presented here still describes you, I implore you to repent, accept actual reality, and seek Jesus Christ for his abundant mercy while you still have the opportunity to do so. Only those who repent of their irrational denial of God and have their name written in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” by their savior can have true assurance of a joyous reunion with their beloved Creator and their redeemed love-ones in Heaven. Open your eyes to reality and think on these things.