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The Pagan Gentile

1: 18-32



These verses depict the dreadful consequences of rejecting **God**. And the picture **Paul** paints is not pretty. One must understand the “Bad News” before one can properly appreciate the “Good News” and the central role of faith/trust/belief in accepting it. This situation persisted in the pagan world of **the Gentiles** as distinct from **the Jews**. **Paul** uses three generally parallel sequences to make **his** point.

Romans 1:21-24: People “exchange” the truth of God for idols, and God has given them up to the vileness of their hearts’ lusts, to the shameful misuse of each other’s bodies.

Romans 1:25-26a: People “exchange” the truth of God for a lie, and God has given them up to degrading passions; so that they exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

Romans 1:26b-32: People “exchange” natural sexual practices for the unnatural, and God has given them up to worthless ways of thinking; so, they do improper things.³²