

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

August 3, 2021

## A SOUND MIND

The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Romans was written as a spiritual history of Israel leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Babylon. They were *“without excuse”* because *“when they knew God, they glorified him not as God..”* Romans 1:21. This chapter, which was written almost two thousand years ago to describe events which began to take place almost fifteen centuries before, could very well have been written in our day because it parallels perfectly the present history of America.

Because of Israel’s idolatry and rebellion there were three great judgments which God gave to prepare them for the hour of destruction at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. These same three judgments have also come upon America. God will not destroy a righteous nation, but when a nation rejects him, God will destroy their righteousness. Consider the judgments of God which have already come upon our great land.

The first judgment is described this way:

***“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.”*** Romans 1:24. This judgment was God’s response to a people who *“changed the glory of*

*the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...*" Romans 1:23. From the pulpit, the White House, the halls of Congress, and our high courts, to the schools where our children are taught, the name of God has been corrupted and maligned in America. God's response was to give America up to sexual uncleanness. Marriage has been almost forsaken and completely corrupted. Pornography fills the lives of believer and unbeliever alike. "Live in" arrangements are as common among church goers as among the unbelievers. We have become a nation of people who like the animals of the field, simply follow *"the lusts of their own hearts."*

The second judgment is even worse. The scripture says, ***"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."***

Romans 1:26-27. This judgment came because beginning in the pulpit and extending nationwide, we *"...changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator..."* Romans 1:25. When a nation is given over to vile affections the perversion will claim the children of the politician along with the children of the atheist and the children of the preacher. Such is the case in America today. School age children are being swept into perverted activity by the tens

of thousands. The nation, its entertainment, its courts, and its politicians vilify anyone who dares stand and speak against such things. We truly have been *“given over to vile affections.”*

The third judgment has taken us like a mighty storm. The scripture says, *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”***

Romans 1:28-32. Can anyone who knows God see the events of the past couple years and not see that our nation has been given over to a reprobate mind? Vulgarity, maliciousness, and indecency is in full display at every level of society. Violence and theft is justified, while anyone who stands for the truth of God is presented to be a hate-filled closed-minded bigot. It seems there is no soundness of mind anywhere.

Even in what is called fundamental Christianity *“strong delusion”* seems to have taken hold. I hear conspiracy theories with absurd outcomes on a regular basis. I get emails calling Franklin Graham a heretic for encouraging people to get

a COVID vaccination. Another told me “The Democrats” released COVID upon the world! People tell me “those who hear prophetically” know that Donald Trump will be President before the summer is passed. The things are so delusional they remind me of the apostle’s words “...for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” II Thessalonians 2:11-12.

In the midst of a nation, and much of what is called the church, which has been given over to a reprobate mind, the people of God still have a promise from God. The Apostle Paul said, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; **but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**” I

Timothy 1:7. The answer in such a time as this is still “*stir up the gift of God, which is in thee...*” I Timothy 1:6. If you are a child of God, he has given you the “*mind of Christ.*” I Corinthians 2:16. It is a sound mind! Do not be led around by politicians on either side, by radio or television personalities, by self-proclaimed prophets, or even by friends who have everything figured out. “**Stir up the gift of God that is within you!**” Seek God for the fullness of his Spirit. “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*” Romans 8:14.