

Matthew 24 Series - Romans 1

Part 18 in the Series - Second Coming of Christ in the Book of Romans - continued

Preached first on 12/9/2018 on www.molibertyradio.us

Last week we talked about the Second Coming of Christ as seen in the first chapter of Romans. And what I mean by that is how we see Bible Prophecy from the teachings of Christ - particularly in Matthew 23 and 24 - being fulfilled in the generation in which Christ said those things would be fulfilled.

We talked about how Paul made it very clear right from the outset - that the central character in his letter was Jesus Christ our Lord. It was not Jesus. It was not Jesus of Nazareth. But it was Jesus, followed by His title - Christ - followed by a descriptive term for His title - Lord - which means - One Who is supreme in authority. I had mentioned that in the entire book of Romans, Paul called Him Jesus only once or twice. It happened only twice.

In the rest of the times Paul referred to Jesus - it was mostly with His name and title and usually with His name, title, and the descriptive term for His title - Lord.

We discussed again how that Paul made another reference to Jesus Christ being of the seed of David according to the flesh, and being the Promised One according to the prophets in the holy Scriptures.

All of this was done as part of simple, proper grammar and - if you will - theme paper rules - in setting a proper foundation so that Paul's readers can make no mistake as to what he is talking about.

Discussing Romans 1 is not really a passage that can be adequately addressed in one hour - probably not two - three or even four hours. There's so much there. I'm not going to spend many hours on the passage - but I do feel we need to discuss more before we move on.

In the weeks past, I have discussed with you the importance of understanding His name. Now, again, I'm not talking about whether we should be calling Him Yeshua, Joshua, or Jesus but simply the name by which we all know who we are talking about.

Jesus of Nazareth, let's us all know that we talking about the Jesus of the Bible.

But once His mission was completed or you might even say while He was in the process

of completing His mission, He gained more and more titles that described Him - what He did - Who He was and Who He is.

Let's talk about the word "Christ" again for just a few minutes.

Go with me to Matthew 22 and let's look at verse 41.

Because of futuristic teachings of the Scripture - which means that the truth of God's Word has been changed - we've lost sight of so many things. I'm saying that when we take what are the clear words of Christ - pertaining to a specific generation - nation, time, place and people - and we alter that understanding to apply to a different generation, nation, time, place and people - we change the truth of God into a lie. Great deceivers have done this - and sincere people who have been duped - have done it also.

Because the Kingdom of God has been preached as futuristic - we've lost sight of Who even Jesus was. We don't know who God's Chosen people are, we don't know whether the Messiah came, whether He's coming again - what's right, what's wrong, is the Law of God good, is the Law of God bad - we're in a mess.

Forgetting for a moment that Jesus of Nazareth WAS the Christ.

The Christ - the Anointed One - as prophesied by the prophets, by Moses and by the Psalms, was the One Who was known to be the Coming King of Israel. The One Who would restore the Kingdom to Israel and the One Who would rule and reign from David's throne. This was common knowledge among the Israelites and the Jews. A King was promised. He would restore the Kingdom and He would reign forever.

Early on we saw the wise men from the east who had seen the King's star - a prophecy of old that signified the birth of the King and the wise would understand it - and come to find the King.

In the early ministry of Jesus, the disciples said, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel."

John the Baptist was the forerunner to the King. John knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the King of Israel.

Here in Matthew 22, we are going to see again that the term Christ is not the name for

Jesus - it is His title. Christ is the title of the One Whom the Israelites and the Jews were looking for - to come to them - to be their Saviour and their King.

Verse 41:

[41] While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,
[42] Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.

So Jesus asks them, "What do you think about Christ? What do you think about the Messiah? What do you think about the Anointed Restorer, Saviour, and King that was prophesied? He's not asking them to tell Him about Him - Jesus. He's saying what about the Christ.

These Pharisees, Saducees and Herodians that had all gathered there that day for the purpose of trying to trap Jesus in His words - to which Jesus was not the least bit surprised or trapped by what they were doing - as verse 18 clearly says that "Jesus perceived their wickedness" - these same men did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They did not believe that this Jesus was the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant - just like the Jews of today do not believe that Jesus was the fulfillment - neither did these people. They did not believe He was the Christ.

So Jesus asks them about this prophesied Christ and said, "Whose son is he?" And they answered, "David." Ok. The Messiah, the King, was of the lineage of David." So Jesus then responds and says,

[43] He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,
[44] The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?
[45] If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?
[46] And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Jesus is - in a way - telling those people that their whole understanding of Christ - the prophesied King, Saviour, Redeemer, Restorer of Israel is not what they think. If they did understand, they would have known that Jesus was the Christ - standing right in front of them.

But to those who *did* understand and *did* believe the prophets - they correctly

identified Jesus as the Christ. Jesus was His name - His title was Christ. And later, the description of that title is Lord - as in One Who is supreme in authority.

Matthew 15:15-16

Jesus saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

[16] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

After the resurrection of Jesus, according to Romans 1 concerning God's Son - which He had promised afore by his prophets in the holy Scriptures - this man was God's Son - Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead;

I'm telling you today that His supremacy in authority - His Kingship - is not future - it is not restricted only to the Heavens - but it was established over 2,000 years ago and it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingship - His exclusive supremacy and authority - and to do it - right now.

The urgency of the situation should be plainly seen from the writings of Paul as we see them in Romans 1. The fulfillment of all the words of Paul in Romans 1 were directed at THAT GENERATION - those people, that time, in that place.

The imminent return of Christ to THAT GENERATION coincided with the unbridled, unrestricted - awesome wrath and judgement of God that was getting ready to be unleashed on THE PEOPLE of THAT GENERATION - the Pharisees, the Saducees, the Herodians, the chief priests, the scribes - all those who participated in the rejection of the Christ and His subsequent execution.

At the end of the message last week, we completed the first chapter of Romans and we read from the Works of Josephus how that Josephus said that the people who were living in Jerusalem during the generation - the ones who rejected God's Son and caused Him to be executed - were so wicked and evil - that they couldn't have even imagined anything more to do that was evil because they had invented new acts of evil that had never been seen before. Apparently, they laid awake at night trying to devise how much more evil they could come up with the next day.

This is what is meant in Romans 1:28 where it says that God had given them over to a

reprobate mind. "Reprobate" means an unapproved, rejected, worthless, castaway.

Webster's 1828 says reprobate can be an adjective, a noun or a verb. Romans 1:28 seems to be used as an adjective.

As an adjective, Webster says "Not enduring proof or trial; not of standard purity or fineness, disallowed, rejected. Abandoned in sin; lost to virtue and grace. Abandoned to error, or in apostacy."

As a noun, it means a "person abandoned to sin; one lost to virtue and religion.

As a verb it means to "disapprove with detestation or marks of extreme dislike; to disallow, to reject. It expresses more than disapprove or disallow. We disapprove of slight faults and improprieties; we reprobate what is mean or criminal."

Among the things that caused God Himself to reject, to disallow, God Himself declared the actors reprobate - is found in verses 26 and 27.

This is what God says happens to people who refused to - and I realize that the text is talking to a specific group of people at a specific time and place - but I believe we would do great injustice to the Scriptures to say that there are eternal principles that being confirmed in this passage for future generations to understand - and to - listen now - to mark as things which SHOULD SHOW US - the mind of God and His perfect Will for His creation.

I simply refuse to believe that God has somehow changed His mind from the first generation - to now - as to what He felt about the actions described in Romans 1.

Verse 26:

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:

Why did God give them up? Because they changed the truth of God into a lie. They worshipped the creation instead of the Creator.

[27] 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.

A modern translation puts it this way:

Because they do this, God has given them over to shameful passions. Even the women pervert the natural use of their sex by unnatural acts. In the same way the men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other. Men do shameful things with each other, and as a result they bring upon themselves the punishment they deserve for their wrongdoing.

[28] 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;

Look, I get it. I understand the world - those that do not claim to be followers of Jesus or Jesus Christ - I understand and can even ACCEPT - the fact that those people would argue that homosexuality is okay. I would expect godless scientists and doctors and psychologists to argue that homosexuality is perfectly fine. I would expect them to do whatever they can do to try to persuade themselves that this sin is perfectly fine.

They don't believe in God. They don't believe in His Son. They don't believe the Scriptures. What else should we expect? They are "doing what they do."

But what we cannot be silent on - *any longer* - is when people who claim to be followers of Jesus - now you will not find this among people who claim to be followers of the King - but among those who claim to be followers of Jesus - and there's a whole lot of them - we cannot be silent any longer when these people say that the Bible does not address the acts of homosexuality.

Understand with me today, look at Romans 1 in time, place and people. We need to understand that these people were ones who openly mocked Jesus - hated the concept of Jesus being Christ - and flatly refused to obey Him as Lord. They had become so wicked and evil that they were devising new things that were called evil. These people had become as far removed from God as one could possibly get - and it was so bad - that the Bible says that God gave them over to a reprobate mind - to do those things to do those things which are not convenient;

[29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

[30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

[31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection,

implacable, unmerciful:

[32] 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.

Now if you go on to chapter 2, you will see that the chapter starts with a Therefore. This is a continuation of chapter 1. Remember, the original text did not have chapters. It can be a bit of problem for the reader who is not aware that just because it's a new chapter, that doesn't mean it's a new idea or concept. The subject is still the same.

There are supposed "Christians" out there today - and sadly some of them are even sincere ones - but they go to chapter 2 and start using this chapter in saying that it is wrong for believers to judge homosexuality as sin - or preach against it - for fear you might hurt someone's feelings and drive them away from Jesus instead of to Jesus.

But this is exactly the OPPOSITE of what Chapter 2 wants us to understand.

Chapter 2 is condemning those as "judges" that were the ones committing all the evil acts. It's not talking about the advocates for King Jesus not judging and making Godly judgements. It's talking about those who have changed the truth of God into a lie. It's those who are saying that the Law of God does not exist - and even that God Himself does not exist.

This Romans 1 and 2 text is talking about the Pharisees, the Saducees, the chief priests, etc., - and all those who rejected Christ. And chapter 2, verse 1 is still talking about those same people.

At the beginning of Matthew 23, which is Christ's scathing rebuke of that generation - more than 2,000 years ago - He says this:

[1] Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

[2] Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

[3] All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they say - and do not. This is exactly the same language of Romans 2:1.

[4] For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

[5] But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their

phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Compare that again to Romans 2:1-3

[1] Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

[2] But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

[3] And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

What are the "commit such things" in verses 2 and 3? It's a direct reference back to chapter 1, verses 21-32.

Again, in reference to the acts of homosexuality - look at verse 32 of Romans 1.

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.

Not only are the acts of homosexuality accepted in America today - but they are praised, defended and have become such a fabric of the society that people are afraid to stand up and say what God's Word says on the subject. I expect the world to defend it. I expect the world to promote it - but people who call themselves believers in God?

Romans 2 is not telling followers of Christ to accept homosexuality in order to not be a judge. I can't believe we have to convince people of this today.

I struggle with what to refer to these people as. I don't want to call them followers of Jesus - but there are lots of followers of Jesus. Many follow that name. Of that generation, the Lord Jesus said in regards to the day of judgement that was soon coming on that generation,

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

[22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

[23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that

work iniquity.

Much is said and done in His name. But His name without His title is powerless today. Again, let's not fool ourselves. Many people want Jesus the Saviour - *dying on a cross* - but not many want Him as the Reigning King of kings and Lord of lords - right now.

I don't know what to call people who claim God - but advocate for homosexuality. It's really really strange to me.

I've told you before that I was raised a staunch, fundamental Baptist. I remember the days where the Baptist preacher would preach against sin. I remember them preaching against gambling, preaching against supporting Hollywood, preaching against liquor and cigarettes, I even remember them preaching against corruption in government. Honestly, I don't remember them preaching much if anything about homosexuality because back then it wasn't so much in our faces.

I never thought I'd see the day - though I'm not surprised - but several years ago - my oldest son asked a Baptist preacher that he was playing basketball with - if he ever preached against homosexuality. And the Baptist preacher told my son that he would never preach against homosexuality because - basically - he didn't want to offend anyone that might otherwise come to his church.

It's not our job to be concerned with feelings or what someone might think or say about us - it's our job to preach and teach the Word of God and to teach everyone and everything in God's Creation what God's Will is for His creation.

We need to realize that what we see in Romans 1 is abominable acts that those who murdered Christ did - and God says those acts caused Him to turn those people over to a reprobate mind - and - those people who knowing the judgement 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.

One of the reasons I wanted to go back and bring this up is because some - and I'm going to say so-called - because I believe that's gentle for not really knowing what to say - but a so-called Christian singer was on the Ellen DeGeneres show recently and some of her supporters took offense to that and questioned why she would go on that show. For those of you that may not know, Ellen DeGeneres is an openly queer entertainer who is very popular. Has her own TV show and has a large following. But she's openly queer, even says she's "married" to a woman.

I read an article that was talking about this "Christian singer" who went on Ellen's show and she talked about how nice Ellen was and how funny and blah blah blah.

As I usually do, I took to reading the comments section after an article that was talking about this. Here's some of the comments:

In reference to the Christian singer, a lady wrote:

"She has a awesomely beautiful heart! Such a wise young soul to love and see all as God would! For He gave His Only Begotten Son to let us be not perfect but loved! God Bless All"

Okay, Ethel. When was that last time you looked at Romans 1 to see what God sees?

Another one said:

I love Ellen she makes me laugh, dances, sings, joyful, funny, happy. All need love as Jesus has loved us. Sing, Love God and Jesus. Loves everybody.

There were some comments from people who were not supporting this singer who was on Ellen's show, but most of what I read was supportive.

When Herod was committing adultery with his brother's wife, John the Baptist didn't tell him, "It's okay, Jesus loves you, keep on keepin' on. God loves all." No, John told him, "Herod, you are wrong."

One of the commandments - and apparently that's just not a popular word in today's society - but one of the commandments that Jesus gave His disciples - was to be salt and light. I certainly believe that is an eternal principle that extended beyond that generation.

When John shined the light on Herod's sin - John was being an example of light and salt.

I'm going to make what might sound like the craziest statement you've ever heard. But if you'll really listen to it and meditate on it - I think you'll find that there is at the least merit to it demanding further discussion - or you might find it exactly correct.

I have said many many times - a person cannot have Jesus as Saviour - if they do not take Him as Lord and King. The Saviourship of the Christ is inseparable from His Kingship.

Now, when I was in the Baptist church, I was told that this belief - *which I've held for pretty much my whole life* - but I was told this belief was the exact OPPOSITE of what the truth was. I was told that a person could absolutely have the Saviourship of Jesus - without having Him as Lord.

This is where the concept of "Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, come into my heart and save me," and poof that's it - you're in the family - this is where that concept came from. Well, I think we can see where that concept has gotten us.

So, I believe that the Scriptures - *without question* - teach that He must be called upon as Lord - the One Who is supreme in authority. The simple fact that the name "Jesus" - without His title and the description of His title - is only mentioned 2 times in the whole book of Romans is very powerful evidence to back up what I'm saying.

So, I said all that to say this - while it is impossible to have Him as Saviour and not Lord - it is possible - now hang on here - stay with me - it is possible to have Him as Lord and not as Saviour.

What in the world did I just say?

Here's one of the best ways I can explain. Today in America, and around the world for that matter - whoever's laws or statutes the people obey - that is who their lord is. You may hate them. You may despise them. You may hate their laws. But whoever's laws or statutes the people obey, that is who their lord is.

For the biggest majority of people in America today. Government is not only their lord - but government is also who they look to as their saviour.

On 3/10/2014, according to an article written in Investor Business Daily:

Quote: "Buried deep in a section of President Obama's budget, released this week, is an eye-opening fact: This year, 70% of all the money the federal government spends will be in the form of direct payments to individuals, an all-time high.

In effect, the government has become primarily a massive money-transfer machine, taking \$2.6 trillion from some and handing it back out to others. These government transfers now account for 15% of GDP, another all-time high. In 1991, direct payments accounted for less than half the budget and 10% of GDP. What's more, the cost of these direct payments is exploding. Even after adjusting for inflation, they've shot up 29% under Obama."

I know that what I'm going to say is to going to hurt some feelings and for those of you listening who are sincerely wanting to do what's right, and sincerely know we've got big problems, and sincerely want answers and want to do what's right - I'm sorry - but I have to tell the truth.

If the government's social security system was to stop tomorrow - how many people would be in need of a saviour? If Medicaid/MediCare/ObamaCare was to stop tomorrow - how many people would be in need of a saviour?

I know the arguments, I know quote "but I paid in..." I know all of that and I hate it because the sincere truth seekers were duped, were deceived into paying in. But how did it happen? How did this become so accepted - so wide-spread?

It's because the followers of Jesus - or those who claim to be followers of Jesus - have bought the lie that Jesus can be a person's saviour from hell-fire - but He doesn't have to be Lord.

The Laws of God have been replaced with the statutes of men - and when that happens - the fear of God is lost and then even the knowledge of God is lost - then we're in a mess. And it rains on the just and the unjust.

So what I'm saying is that Christ can be preached as Lord. And men and women, boys and girls can be informed of what God says is right or wrong, lawful and unlawful. And when the Word of God is preached, it can even cause the unbelievers to be fearful of their own actions. They can continue to reject Him - but His Laws are always before them.

Have you ever heard of Rose Wilder Lane? She was the daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder from Little House on the Prairie fame. Are you aware that when the income tax and social security statutes were adopted in America - she stopped making any more money because she refused to support such a system. Here is something interesting that was said about her:

"In the early 1940s, despite continuing requests from editors for both fiction and non-fiction material, Lane turned away from commercial fiction writing, save for her collaboration on her mother's books. At this time, she became known among [libertarians](#) as influential in the movement. She vehemently opposed the [New Deal](#), eschewed "creeping [socialism](#)," [Social Security](#), wartime rationing, and all forms of taxation. Lane ceased writing highly paid commercial fiction to protest paying [income taxes](#). Living on a small salary from her newspaper column and no longer needing to support her parents or adopted sons, she cut expenses to the bare minimum, living a modern-day version of her ancestors' pioneer life on her rural land near Danbury. She gained some media attention for her refusal to accept a ration card, instead working cooperatively with her rural neighbors to grow and preserve fruits and vegetables, and to raise chickens and pigs for meat. Literary critic and political writer [Isabel Paterson](#) had urged Lane to move to [Connecticut](#), where she would be only "up country a few miles" from Paterson, who had been a friend for many years.

After experiencing it first hand in the Soviet Union during her travels with the Red Cross, Lane was a staunch opponent of communism."

I find it interesting that Rose called all those things "evil" and would not be a participant in supporting it personally. Where could she have possibly gotten the idea that those things that Roosevelt was coming up with - were evil?

When I was growing up in the 60s and even in the 70s - EVERYONE - and I mean EVERYONE - outside of Hollywood and outside of politics - knew that homosexuality was a sin against God. And you know what? It was barely preached against openly from the pulpits. Why?

Because there was enough knowledge of God's Law among the common man - that when the preachers actually preached what God's Word says about it - everyone knew what was being discussed.

Here's what God's Word says about how we should be discussing that issue.

Listen to Ephesians 5:

- [1] Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;
- [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.
- [3] But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
- [4] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.
- [5] For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- [6] Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
- [7] Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
- [8] For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
- [9] (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
- [10] Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
- [11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.
- [12] For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Paul said it is a shame to even speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

This is where the whole concept of "being in the closet" came from. Sure, in the 60s and 70s - there were homosexuals among the common people. But they were "in the closet." They weren't parading around the streets openly. It wasn't nearly as bad as it is today. Not only have they come out of the closet today, but it is being forced down our throats constantly - and now even people who claim Jesus are accepting it. Amazing. And I'm telling you it's because people have bought the lie that Jesus can be saviour and not Lord. Jesus is a coming king - He's not King now.

So, back to this concept of people accepting Him as Lord - but rejecting Him as Saviour.

Since the days of the pilgrims - God's Law was preached throughout America. Jesus Christ was preached as Lord and King.

My wife is a garage saler. She loves the garage sale days of summer. This summer she brought me home one of her treasures. She handed a very old hymnbook. The

hymnbook is so old that even the date of publication has been worn off - or maybe even that page is missing - it's hard to tell. But it's very old. I'd have to guess somewhere around 1900 - I found a copyright date from one of the songs as 1910. There are some Fanny Crosby songs in here, and she died in 1915.

But the title of this hymn book is: Make Christ King

It's not let's look for a future King. Or the King is Coming. But Make Christ King. There's 358 songs in here and they are all about the Kingship of Christ - not future - but now.

My point is, when the Law of God is preached, what follows is the fear of God. If the Law of God is not preached, then not only is there no fear of God - but there will soon be no knowledge of God. Hopefully, that brings to mind a verse of Scripture to you - The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge."

When I was young, I'd hear the phrase, "God will strike you down." Even among those who didn't claim to be followers of God - there seemed to be an element of fear for doing evil. But that seems to be completely missing from today.

In Old Covenant Israel - even though it was not the perfect Will of God for the Israelites to have a king like the other nations - nonetheless Yahweh allowed it - but He put a stipulation to it. This is what Yahweh said about a king of Israel:

Deuteronomy 17:

[14] When thou art come unto the land which Yahweh thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

[15] Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom Yahweh thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

[16] But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as Yahweh hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

[17] Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

[18] And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

[19] And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

[20] That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Now today - 2018 - we are in a different situation. We are not to have kings - we have a King and His name is Jesus, His title is the Christ and the description of that title is Lord - One Who is supreme in authority. So, instead of kings - we are supposed to have judges. And those judges are to do exactly what Yahweh said the king was supposed to do in regards to God's Law.

And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

[20] That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left:

The judges are to be in place to measure the acts of the people - by the measuring stick - by the ruler - called the Laws of God, the Statutes of God - the Perfect Will of God for His creation.

Today, there are no prophets. The prophecies are fulfilled. There are none left. The office of Prophet is closed. However, the office of preacher and teacher is still open and one of the qualifications for that position is found precisely in this same principle.

The preacher should preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. There is another King, One Jesus. And the Law of that Kingdom is the Laws of God, the Statutes of God, the Perfect Will of God for His creation.

And I'm telling you that for a time in America, this is how it was done. I've asked you many times to go to my website and look at the Home page, go down to the bottom of the page and click on the New Haven Colony covenant. You will see it there. Written down for the whole world to see. That is what God wants. That is what Christ and His apostles were establishing, which were then called ecclesias - they were not "churches" - they were called out Christian communities of believers who were teaching, preaching and living the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

What I find so astounding about this, is that apparently God blessed those people's endeavors so much, that the blessing of God lasted for several hundred years. Even after their children left the God of their fathers, the blessing of God was so powerful because of their obedience, that it took many many years for those blessings to fade. Today, we see those blessings gone and we are now seeing the curses for forsaking God's plan for His creation.

While some preachers were preaching the Law of God and the Kingship of Christ - the open practice of sin was relegated to the closet - mostly among the common man. Even Hollywood - and apparently everyone in Hollywood knew each other's business - but Hollywood was able to keep their homosexuality, pedophilia, etc., hidden from the common man.

My wife and I like to watch reruns of the old Perry Mason show. A couple weeks ago, I looked up Raymond Burr on the internet. Just do it yourself if you have the stomach for it. He went to great lengths to cover up his way of life because at that time, "it wasn't good for business." So even back in the 50s and 60s - Hollywood felt it best to stay in the closet.

What has happened since?

It's been the natural progression. No Law of God, no fear of God, no knowledge of God.

Go back to Romans 1 and let's read again from verse 21 on.

[21] Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

[22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

[23] And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

[24] Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

[25] Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

[26] 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:

[27] 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.
[28] 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;

Today, we're at the same type of society. Not because of Bible prophecy - and we need to be glad it's not because of Bible prophecy - because if it was because of Bible prophecy then there would be no hope - nothing to be done. But we are here because we do not believe that Jesus was and is Christ. We do not believe that the Kingdom of God is now - but rather it is in the future. And there is no knowledge of God in the land.

Today, I'm not saying to go out and kill all the homosexuals. I'm not saying that. But what I am saying is we need to be preaching what God says about homosexuality not because they are in need of a saviour - but because there is another King - and that King says that knowing the judgement 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.

Even in godless America, sometimes the death penalty is carried out on someone who has committed murder. Whether Americans like it or not - the death penalty for murder is obeying the Law of God.

Of course, in America, because America blatantly refuses to obey the Law of God, they have even made it to where when they DO carry out the death penalty for murder - they are in open rebellion to the Law of God. You'll have to think about that one for a little while. When they carry out a death penalty sentence in America - they are openly rebelling against the Laws of God.

My point is, under the Laws of God, murder is supposed to bring about the death penalty - and so are the acts associated with homosexuality. I would assume or at least hope that any one who calls themselves a preacher today would not condone murder - but why then do they condone the homosexual when God has declared the same penalty?

It's double-mindedness. And a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

So, I look at this passage of Scripture from Romans 1 and I see clearly several things:

- 1) This particularly and exclusively pertains to the generation of the first century. No doubt about it. The wickedness and evil and all it's associated with are for the people that Jesus was sent to and to which He preached to, and those who rejected His

message, rejected His Kingship and then killed Him. And as a result of their rejection and subsequent murdering of the King - the wrath of God was poured on them - on that generation - nation, time, place, people - unlike the wrath of God had ever been poured out on a group of people.

2) Even though the text is referring to those people - there are eternal principles that we need to capture, ingrain them in our hearts and minds, and apply them as the Will of God for His creation. God didn't just pour out His wrath upon that generation for the things listed in Romans 1 - and then tell His creation that those things are now acceptable. How ridiculous? How utterly stupid for us to say that the principles found here no longer apply for today.