

Sin's Progression

SIN IS PROGRESSIVE in its impact upon individuals and nations.

The Apostle James writes that sin begins as a thought. When that thought is not removed, it then turns into a strong desire to do the act of sin. When the desire is not removed, it then becomes a word or action of sin. Here's how James puts it in James 1:14-15:

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust [thoughts, desires], and enticed [increased desire for the sin]. Then when lust has conceived [decision to do the desire], it brings forth sin [sin committed]: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death."

Romans 1 gives more insight into sin's progression.

PROGRESSION STARTS WITH OUR THOUGHTS

Romans 1:18-32

The Apostle Paul reveals that involvement with sin begins with changing our thoughts about sin and how God sees sin. This is part of what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote that sinners "hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

Everyone who sins are without excuse for not understanding God and His standards because God made Himself obvious to all through all that He made: the trees, the sky, the sun, the moon, and even that person looking back at you in the mirror. Through His creation we can even understand the invisible things of God, including His eternal power and Godhead (Romans 1:20). Because all people can understand God, they are without excuse for not knowing Him, His standard of righteousness, and the consequence for sin (Romans 1:20b). Instead of acknowledging God and His standard, people redefine them, in this way God's truth is held in "unrighteousness." In this way individuals deceive themselves thinking they are okay in God's eyes, when they are not. This is a great deception in our present age.

When our thinking about God changes, it changes our relationship with God. God is no longer given the glory for all that exists. In our present age, people like Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud have changed our thoughts about who created all that we can see as well as how we work within ourselves. Instead of giving God the glory, we've given the glory to man and his wisdom, rejecting God's truth, and no longer being thankful to God (Romans 1:21-22).

PROGRESSION TO UNCLEANNES

Romans 1:24-25

Throughout the 1900's God's truths were replaced with man's thoughts (imagination) through the teachings of Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, John Dewey, and Julius Wellhausen. Accepting these teachings, and rejecting God's teachings, has led us into all types of "uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their bodies between themselves" (Romans 1:24-25). This "uncleanness" revealed itself in the 1960's with the sexual revolution, saturation of illegal drugs, involvement with the occult and eastern religions, mass rebellion of the youth, and the overall turning against the Judea/Christian standards that permeated all of society up to this time. Because we did not remove these sins from our culture we were given over to sin's next progression.

PROGRESSION TO VILE AFFECTIONS

Romans 1:26-27

Since, as a nation, we continued to reject God, God allowed the consequences of the judgement of uncleanness to lead us further into sin where God gives us to our "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). The gays and lesbians continued to permeate our culture to the point that in the year of this writing, 2023, they have infiltrated every aspect of society: schools, government, churches, etc. If we do not repent from this sin, and remove it from our culture, we will soon be given over to sin's next progression.

PROGRESSION TO TOTAL DEPRAVITY

Romans 1:28-32

As we continue to reject God, refusing to repent of our sin, we will then enter sin's next progression. We will be given over to a total "reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:29-31). Here's the list of what happens when the mind goes totally depraved: "filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity...full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Some of you may think we've already reached this point. Even though these things have increased greatly, if we don't repent of our sins outlined in the previous sections, as the saying goes, "You ain't seen nothing yet."

This indicates that our culture will be saturated with these more than what it is now. All will be impacted by sin's dominance. These will become what the Apostle Paul calls "perilous times" (2 Timothy 3:1).

In Romans 1:32 the Apostle Paul gives a terrifying warning to those who are very much aware of God's judgement on those who sin. He warns that you are also doing these things. Not only do you do them, but you also take "pleasure in them that do them."

Let that last sentence sink in. We (Christians) also read books, go to movies, listen to music, play online games, etc. filled with all kinds of murdering, cursing, sex, and all types of characteristics, emotions, and behavior contrary to God, yet we take great pleasure in and spend many hours with them. When these occupy your time and thoughts, God is nowhere close to you, even if you claim the name of Christ and call him lord. You are in danger of eternal judgement in hell if you don't remove these things from your life.

God does not play.

It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God. Sin and pleasure in sin are highly displeasing to God.

Even though sin will dominate our culture when it gets to this point, we still have hope. We can stop its progression. Do I think it's possible we can stop sin at this point? Yes. Do I think it's probable we will stop sin at this point? No. If we don't repent the final and most destructive progression of sin will then be unleashed.

PROGRESSION TO THE FINAL DEPRAVITY

The Apostle Paul does not tell us what happens after we enter the end of sin's progression. What is revealed in the Old Testament is that God intervenes by sending a foreign nation, more unrighteous than the nation they are conquering, to conquer them.

Currently America is standing on the edge of all kinds of sexual perversion. We have the opportunity to change our way of thinking about these things and repent. If we don't, we will soon go over the edge into total depravity. After that, it will be one small step to entering our final demise—the death of our nation. No more superpower status.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Sin is progressive and leads an individual and nation step-by-step to its final death. Through each step, there is the opportunity to repent and stop the progression. When our sin is not

acknowledged, and we do not repent, the progression continues until we reach its end and the final judgment comes in the form of the destruction of our nation and eternal hell for individuals.

I urge you.

Our days are short.

Acknowledge your sin. Repent of your sin. Look forward to and live for the hope of your eternal inheritance.

In all that you do, do for the glory of God.

Steve

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