

## How Societies Fall and Their Only Hope

Romans 1 teaches how the pagan got to be pagan. Sure, they're in darkness and ignorant of God and His ways. But they are not innocent in God's eyes because their initial rejection of God was a deliberate choice made with knowledge. Ignorance was the result, not the cause. So none are innocent for none were ignorant. All are guilty and under God's wrath, Rom. 1:18, 3:19. This short outline from Romans 1 shows how the complete digression of man and nations takes place with God's only solution - offered to all.

**SOURCE** – **Rejection of God in Creation's Revelation** *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen...so that they are without excuse...when they knew God [by creation], they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful”,* 1:19-21

followed by...

**SYMPTONS** – (Results of this Deliberate Rejection)

**Rationalization** *“But became vain in their imaginations”,* 1:21

RESULTS – leaving God's revelation they're left with only their own reasoning

followed by...

**Regression** *“and their foolish heart was darkened”,* 1:21

RESULTS – their ability now to think and understand becomes damaged

followed by...

**Retardation** *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools”,* 1:22

RESULTS – they'll come up with wild theories of our origin - in the name of education and “science”

followed by...

**Religious Perversion** *“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image”,* 1:23

RESULTS – Their own thinking corrupts what God is really like and they make God into their image; misrepresenting and misunderstanding Him

followed by...

**Ravishing Appetites** *“the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies”,* 1:24

RESULTS – God gives them over (will not force Himself on one and therefore their desires aren't restrained) so that they now see their body as a playground and not a temple of God: sexual corruption

followed by...

**Reversal of Truth** *“Who changed the truth of God into a lie”,* 1:25

RESULTS – what is truth is viewed as wrong – and what is wrong is viewed as right

followed by...

**Re-evaluation** *“and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator”,* 1:25

RESULTS – their emphasis and focus is now on self and creation (animals, etc.), rather than on the one Creator who made it all and is blessed forever. (Mother Earth is looked at the source of life that needs saved)

followed by...

**Repulsive Behavior** *“likewise also the men [just like the women did with women]... burned in their lust one toward another; men with men”,* 1:26, 27

RESULTS – God further gave them up by not restraining them from being governed by their vile affections rather than God's rule. So, in burning self-lust they go against natural order with natural bodily consequences

followed by...

**Reprobate Mind** *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind”, 1:28*

RESULTS – As their mind is determined to leave God out, God doesn't stop them but allows their mind to go into reprobation: completely depraved and now unable to discern morally to make right decisions, laws or judgments. They self destruct – but don't know it

followed by...

**Rebellious Society** *“Being filled with all unrighteousness...”, 1:29-31*

RESULTS – rebellion in every area with all the heartbreak, depression, disease, emptiness and frustration that come from total depravity: from sexual unfaithfulness – to being driven by envy in never being satisfied – to haters of God – to breaking their covenants (divorce, dishonesty, etc.) – to hurtful language that emotionally damages – to rebelling against authority (parents) – to inventing new ways of evil – to lacking mercy

**SENTENCE – Righteous Retribution** *“knowing the judgment of God...are worthy of death...the righteous judgment of God”, 1:32, 2:5*

**SOLUTION – Righteous Salvation** *“the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...the righteousness of God revealed”, 1:16, 17*

REDEMPTION – **God's love** *“the redemption [payment for sin] that is in Christ Jesus”, Rom. 3:24*

RESURRECTION – **God's proof** *“And declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead”, Rom. 1:4*

RESPONSE – **God's invitation** *“...salvation to every one that believeth”, Ro. 1:16*

RESULTS –

**Reconciliation** *“we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son”, Rom. 5:10*  
The root problem was rejecting God. The gospel brings you back to God and gives one peace with Him, therefore saving from judgment. It deals with the root before the fruit.

**Righteous Body Actions** *“by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God”, Rom. 12:1*  
Then the fruit - God in a life: the body goes from doing heart's lust to doing God's will.

**Renewal of Mind** *“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”, Rom. 12:2*  
The mind goes from reprobate to understanding and knowing God.

**Right Affections** *“Be kindly affectioned one to another”, Rom. 12:10*  
The affections (soul) go from vile to caring one for another.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”, 1:16.