

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Last Step on the Way Down

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 1:24, 26-29

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2045

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) The book of Romans is something solid to stand on in these shaky days in which we live.
 - b) The book of Romans is literally good news; it is about the Gospel.
 - i) Its theme is the Gospel.
 - ii) The word “Gospel” means “good news.”
 - (1) Before we can appreciate good news, we must hear the bad news.
 - (2) It’s the bad news that makes the good news good.
 - c) The Apostle Paul begins the book of Romans by telling us about sin before he tells us about salvation, sanctification and service.
 - i) Paul talks about the horrible consequences of sin and the causes of sin in the hearts and lives of people.
 - ii) Before people can be saved, they have to understand that they need the Gospel.
 - d) In our Scripture today, Paul talks about what happens to humanity when they turn from God.
 - i) Romans 1:24, 26-29
 - (1) The phrase “not convenient” means “not fitting.”
 - (2) The first thing on this list is fornication.
 - (3) In each instance where it says that God gave them up and God gave them over, the context is sexual sin.
 - (a) Sexual immorality is the last step on the way down.
 - (b) When a nation loses its ability to discern basic sexual morality, God says that that’s the last step and gives them up and gives them over.
 - e) America is in a crisis.
 - i) Unless we have a moral rebirth, we will join the graveyard of nations.
 - f) In our Scripture today, the Apostle Paul is writing to Rome.
 - i) The Roman Empire came crashing down.
 - ii) English historian Edward Gibbon wrote that the number one thing that destroyed Rome was sexual immorality.
 - g) America today treats adultery with casualness and indifference.
 - i) The new virtue in America is not moral purity or faithfulness, but tolerance.
 - (1) It is now a sin to call sin, sin.
 - (2) It is considered bigoted, narrow and judgmental to stand up and say that sin is sin, right is right, and wrong is wrong.
 - ii) We have lost a sense of moral responsibility.
 - h) Deuteronomy 5:18
 - i) Deuteronomy 5:29
 - i) We don’t break God’s commandments; we’re broken on them.
 - j) Those who participate in sexual immorality will reap the bitter fruit in their lives.
 - i) The double tragedy is that they will miss God’s best and His plan for them.
 - k) The word “fornication” includes all sexual immorality.

- i) It includes sodomy, premarital sex, post-marital infidelity, bestiality, and anything other than wholesome sexual relationship between a husband and wife.
 - l) Marriage is a lifetime matter, and sexual faithfulness is the primary key that holds a marriage together.
 - m) A nation cannot endure without sexual morality.
 - i) Instead of it taking a village to raise a child, it takes a home to make a village.
 - ii) Without the home, there can be no village.
 - (1) It takes a home to raise a child.
 - (2) Unless our homes are solid, we can have no village.
 - n) Matthew 19:5
 - i) The underlying basis of all society is the home, and the underlying basis of the home is sexual fidelity.
 - ii) Parents are not our supreme commitment, and children are not our prime responsibility.
 - (1) We are to love, honor and take care of our parents.
 - (2) Our children are our responsibility, and we are to take care of them.
 - (3) But the husband-wife relationship is stronger than the child-parent and parent-child relationships.
 - (a) A husband's prime responsibility is to his wife, and it comes before parents, children, business life, and political life.
 - o) Today's message will show why adultery is such a horrible, heinous, hurtful and hellish sin, and why sexual immorality is the last step on the way down.
- 2) ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST ONE'S SELF (1 CORINTHIANS 6:18)
- a) 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - i) There is no other sin that will do more damage spiritually, psychologically and physically than fornication.
 - b) Many people die from sexually transmitted diseases.
 - c) When a person commits this sin, he sins against his own body.
 - d) We hear a lot today about safe sex, but the sex God created is not supposed to be dangerous.
- 3) ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST THE HOME
- a) The lives of innocent children are torn apart every year by adultery.
 - b) It is hurtful when those who are living an ungodly, immoral lifestyle prate about family values.
 - i) Romans 2:22
 - (1) This chapter in Romans is about hypocrites.
 - c) It has been said that the man who commits adultery tells his children that their mother isn't worth much and that their father is a liar and a cheat.
 - i) His actions also say that honor is not as important as pleasure and that his own satisfaction is more important than his children.

- d) God established monogamous marriage to meet the deepest emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual needs of a child.
 - i) A child needs the context of a home.
 - e) The glue that holds the home together is sexual faithfulness.
 - f) The home is the foundation of society.
- 4) ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST THE CHURCH
- a) A church member who lives an impure life is sinning against the rest of the members of the church because we are in this together.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - c) 1 Corinthians 12:12
 - d) What affects one member of the body affects another member.
 - e) In the covenant relationship of a church, we cannot say that what we do is nobody else's business.
 - i) When one member suffers, every member suffers.
 - (1) When a part of our physical body is sick, the rest of the body feels it.
 - f) Adultery is an infection in the body.
 - g) The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Don't hurt the body of Christ.
 - (1) Don't sing in the choir and don't preach from the pulpit if sexual immorality is your lifestyle.
 - ii) The church is here to help anyone and everyone who desires help.
 - (1) The church is a society of sinners who finally realized it and have banded together to do something about it.
 - iii) But if someone intends to practice sexual immorality and does not have a repentant spirit and is attending church but is not interested in seeking help or encouragement, then they are harming the body of Christ.
 - (1) They have sinned against the church.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 3:17
- 5) ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST THE NATION
- a) Adultery is an act of treason.
 - b) In the Old Testament, adultery was a crime worthy of death.
 - i) Deuteronomy 22:22
 - (1) This passage says to put the sin away, not only from the people of God, but also from the nation itself.
 - c) It is foolish to say that character and leadership are not synonymous.
 - i) No one is morally fit for leadership who is sexually impure.
 - ii) Proverbs 14:34
 - iii) Character counts.
 - iv) There are many people who believe that it's ability alone that matters, and character has nothing to do with it.
 - (1) Character matters if you want to have the blessing of God.

- (2) When we say that character doesn't count, we are saying that God doesn't count.
- v) A skilled but ungodly leader is dangerous.
- vi) Proverbs 16:12
 - (1) Leadership is stewardship.
 - (a) A leader is acting for God.
 - (i) Romans 13:4
 - 1. He is the minister of God.
- vii) A person who commits adultery is a liar.
 - (1) He has lied against his marriage vows.
 - (2) Liars and leaders are not the same.
 - (a) Proverbs 20:28
- viii) Proverbs 31:3
 - (1) King Lemuel's mother gave him this advice.
 - (a) No one is fit to lead who is morally impure.
- d) Immorality was the sin that led to the downfall of Greece, Rome, Egypt and Babylon.
 - i) It will be the ruin of the American empire if we do not learn to take a stand for that which is right and holy.
 - (1) God will give up on this nation.

6) ADULTERY IS A SIN AGAINST ALMIGHTY GOD

- a) There is a God in the glory.
- b) Exodus 20:14
 - i) This sin is against God because God says that it is wrong.
- c) When King David recognized his sin, he wrote a penitential psalm.
 - i) David did not try to cover it up.
 - (1) What we try to cover, God uncovers.
 - (2) What we uncover, God will cover.
 - ii) Psalm 51:4
 - (1) David realized that he broke both God's law and God's heart.
 - (2) His sin was against Almighty God.
- d) Adultery is a sin that God will judge.
 - i) Hebrews 13:4
 - ii) Proverbs 6:27-29
 - iii) Proverbs 6:32
 - iv) Proverbs 7:27
 - v) 1 Corinthians 6:9
 - (1) God warns to not be deceived; those mentioned in this passage are not going to Heaven unless they change.
 - (2) Thankfully, God goes on to say, "And such were some of you."
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 6:11

- (3) God is not saying that there is no hope or forgiveness; He is saying that you need to be saved if this is your lifestyle, your choice or your practice.
- vi) Ephesians 5:5
 - vii) Revelation 21:8
 - e) God is a holy God, and He has given His commandments, His laws.
 - i) Law without penalty is only advice.
 - ii) No matter how immorality is laughed at, glamorized, rationalized or legitimized, this is a sin that God will judge.
 - f) Some people think that God will not judge this sin because they have not yet experienced judgment.
 - i) Romans 2:5
 - (1) They are treasuring up wrath.
 - g) What must we do?
 - i) We cannot change the hearts and minds of others.
 - ii) Revival will not come to this nation from the White House, the state house or the school house.
 - (1) It is going to come from the church house.
 - (2) It will begin with the people of God.
 - iii) We should never sacrifice the ultimate (the eternal) on the altar of the immediate.
 - iv) We must make a decision.
 - (1) Give your heart to Almighty God.
 - (a) He is the only one who is able to guide you.
 - v) Depend upon Him.
 - (1) Look to God.
 - (2) He will deliver you from sexual immorality if you trust Him.
 - vi) Devotion
 - (1) Love God with all of your heart.
 - (2) Love your spouse with a supernatural love.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:25
 - (i) This is not a request or a suggestion, but a command.
 - (ii) Anything God commands you to do, you can do.
 - vii) Development
 - (1) Feed your love; help your love to grow.
 - (2) Love must be cared for and nurtured.
 - (3) If you do not love your spouse more today than the day you were married, you probably love them less.
 - (4) Never flirt with another, and never fail to flirt with your spouse.
 - viii) Discipline
 - (1) Guard your company.
 - (a) Proverbs 13:20
 - (2) Decide that there are certain things you will not watch.
 - (a) Don't put garbage in your mind.

ix) Determination

(1) Joshua 24:15

(a) No matter what course others may take, we will serve the Lord.

(2) Psalm 57:7

(a) When you make up your mind about one big decision, then you won't have to keep making up your mind about a lot of little decisions.

7) CONCLUSION

a) It is the bad news that makes the Good News good.

i) Romans 1:16

b) God is a God of grace and forgiveness.

i) Isaiah 1:18

c) 2 Corinthians 5:17

d) There is one thing that God will never accept for sin, and that is an excuse or an alibi.

i) But when there comes a confession, Jesus' blood washes whiter than snow.

e) Have you given your heart to Jesus?

f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

i) Romans 3:23

ii) Romans 10:9-10

iii) Romans 10:13

iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16