

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY FIVE

Sinnerama in Panorama

Romans 1:24–32

What we will read today is our biography. As ugly and dark as it may be, it's us. Were I to find a list where all our sins are mentioned, we would all be on our feet because we are all mutually guilty, all equally in need of God's matchless grace and the blood of Jesus to forgive our sins.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

LET the evidence speak for itself.

Criminal trials determine if someone is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Each side presents facts and arguments. Witnesses testify. Fingerprints, DNA, audio recordings—all types of evidence are revealed to support the charges. Then, the jury goes through deliberation to examine and weigh the evidence. You can hear a pin drop when they walk back in the courtroom with the verdict.

This study's passage from the book of Romans has humanity on trial! The charge is *depravity*. The word *depraved* appears in [Romans 1:28](#). In Koine Greek, it's *adokimos*, which means “worthless as proven by testing.” *Depravity* signifies that our sinful condition affects every aspect of our lives. Though we are not as bad as we can be, each of us are as bad off as we could be. Plus, the potential for worse lies within *all of us*.

In the previous *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we examined the bad report showing that humankind has muted God's voice in creation and in their hearts. In this study, we'll step into the courtroom, hear Paul call several witnesses to the stand, and learn how humanity's rejection of their Creator has corrupted their mind, heart, will, and actions. ***Court is in session!***



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

When his friend cast doubt on the truthfulness of God’s Word, Reverend Billy Graham answered with this prayer, “Father, I am going to accept this as Thy Word—by faith! I’m going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual question and doubts, and I will believe this to be Your inspired Word.”¹

After praying, he began to sense God’s power and presence as he had not experienced in months. To prepare your heart, tell God your struggles. Constantly seek His help. And accept His Word *by faith*.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Paul dictated his letter to the Romans while in Corinth, the capital of ancient Greece—probably during the timeframe mentioned in [Acts 20:2–3](#). Corinth was prosperous and diverse, a prominent hub for business and culture. Its many temples dedicated to various gods and goddesses with loose morals made Corinth a hotbed for idol worship and sensual pleasures.

As the Jewish evangelist came to the end of his third missionary journey, he would have seen a wide range of attitudes and behaviors portraying how humanity has drastically strayed from God’s original design. Statues of birds and snakes being worshiped as gods, casual and flagrant homosexuality and pederasty—the evidence of human depravity teemed before Paul’s eyes!



Observation: Humanity’s Rejection of God

Let’s begin with the initial step of our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method. Use your observation skills to determine what [Romans 1:24–32](#) says.² Track Paul’s logic in his flow of thoughts.

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Look closely at [Romans 1:24–28](#). In Scripture, repetition tells us that something is very important. What phrase appears on three separate occasions in this section? Go back to verses [21–23](#) to identify the first witness on the stand. What caused God to give over the God-rejecters?

Consequence Number 1—Homosexuality

There comes another witness! Compare the two types of exchange that take place in [Romans 1:25–27](#). In what way does idolatry look like same-sex relations? What penalty do they receive in themselves?

Consequence Number 2—A Depraved Mind and a Vice List

In [Romans 1:28–31](#), Paul noted that God gave them over to a depraved mind. Then, he recorded a litany of 21 vices that show humanity's corruption. How would you summarize them in a sentence or two?

How did Paul portray depraved humanity in [1:32](#)?

It is a portrayal of life that leaves God out. It is depravity on parade. It is ugly, dark, scandalous, and shocking. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Interpretation: The Depravity of Humanity

Now, move to the second step, interpretation, which helps the reader come to a deeper understanding of the meaning of the passage.¹ If you don't have Pastor Chuck's *Insights on Romans* commentary in your library, grab your copy at insight.org/store.

According to *Romans 1:24–26*, because human beings rejected God, He handed them over to sin. Find the meaning of the Greek verb, *paradidomi*, which is translated, “to hand over” in the Greek dictionary available free at billmounce.com. Explain the meaning of these verses as well as what they teach about God's involvement with the created world.

This is a judicial abandonment. This is a divine, active giving over, a deliberate release of humanity to the judgment and the intensification of the aggravation and cultivation of lusts, so that our hearts build in our lust with the result that we reap for ourselves the consequences and a greater toll of just vengeance. That's being “given over.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

In verse *24*, God gave them up to vile impurity. Look up the Greek word *akatharsia* in the same Greek dictionary, which is translated as “impurity.” Write its meaning. How is idolatry connected to impurity?

Idolatry and impurity are joined at the hip; where you have one, you have the other. And where you have impurity, you will find the dishonoring of the body. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Romans 1:26–27 describes homosexuality as an exchange of the natural sexual drive for the unnatural. Explore the term *homosexuality* further in the *Holman Bible Dictionary* or a Bible dictionary of your choice. How does your research inform your understanding of homosexuality?

In God's created order and in God's original intention, there was the creation of the male and the creation of the female to be brought together in a bond where there would be the reproduction of life. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Romans 1:28 states that God gave them over to a depraved mind. In the Greek dictionary, you'll see the term is *adokimos*, translated “depraved.” Based on what you have read so far, in a sentence or two, write your own definition of the depravity of humankind.

The depravity of humanity doesn't mean that humankind is as bad as it can be. We can always get worse; we're watching it happen. It means we are as bad off as we can be without Christ. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll.



Correlation: The Human Biography

To enrich our interpretation of *Romans 1:24–32*, we must correlate it with other passages of Scripture. The biography of the human race reveals that sin has affected every aspect of every human being.

In our biography, we have Adam's rejection of God in *Genesis 3:1–19*, followed by Cain's premeditated murder of his younger brother, Abel, in *4:1–16*. How do these actions resemble what we found in *Romans 1:29–32*?

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You reach the bottom rung when you become senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless. Senseless—you don't learn lessons in life. You keep doing the same thing again and again, which is a form of lunacy. Faithless—you're not willing to honor agreements and contracts. Heartless—you destroy bonds of human affection to get your own way, sometimes deliberately and sometimes carelessly. And ruthless—you're totally without pity and without mercy.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

The human biography in Scripture shows a blatant rejection of God's design. What are the similarities between [Genesis 19:1–28](#) and [Romans 1:25–27](#). What do passages such as [Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; and Deuteronomy 23:17–18](#) reveal about God's view of practicing homosexuality? Read [1 Corinthians 6:9–11](#). How would you explain to a friend that in Christ we find hope beyond sin?

Christians know that sin and its effect can be dealt with because God has said so in the Scriptures, and Christ died to overcome sin. So when sin is mentioned, there is real hope. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: The Evidence Has Spoken! Our Only Hope Is Jesus!

Application helps us internalize the passage personally. Questions such as “Is there an attitude I must change?” enable us to apply the text to our personal lives.

What has the Holy Spirit brought to your attention in this Bible study? Why not ask God to help you uphold a Christlike attitude toward those who practice these sins?

It is unbiblical, inaccurate, and grossly unkind to say God hates lesbians and homosexuals. Don't do that. It's terribly unchristian. No more than He hates the thief, or He hates the murder, or He hates the gossip. When we do the hating, we thereby block many an opportunity to win the hearts and minds of those trapped in the sin. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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The guilt of humanity becomes more and more apparent with each witness that takes the stand. What has the Holy Spirit prompted you to do in response to this Bible study?

Suppressing the truth incites the wrath of God. Embracing the truth invites the righteousness of God. Put the cross back in the picture, and it is amazing what it does. What do I have to do to be lost? Nothing. What do I have to do to be saved? Christ. I have His blood to wash away my sins, to clean me up, to put me on my feet for the first time. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



A FINAL PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for rescuing me! Yes, I was guilty as charged. Thank You for Your matchless grace and the blood of Jesus that forgave my sins. I pray for all who have not placed their faith in Your Son. Use Your Word on my lips to point them to the cross. May the way I live show them Your love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

ENDNOTES

1. Billy Graham, “The Bible Says . . . —The Eternal and Unchanging Word of God,” January 10, 2024, Billy Graham Library, billygrahamlibrary.org/blog-billy-grahams-preaching-bible/.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, “*How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?*”

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll’s messages. Copyright © 2006, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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