

PHASE III OF ROMANS 1: DEPRAVITY

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Jer. 12:5:** *If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets [“swelling and flooding of” AMP] by the Jordan?*
- B. We need people like the sons of Issachar who can understand the times and know what God’s people are to do in these evil days (1 Chron. 12:32)—we are in the final hour and great darkness and shakings are coming:

2 Tim. 3:1-9: *¹But mark this: **There will be terrible times in the last days.** ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³**without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. ⁶They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers **oppose the truth.** They are men of **depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.** ⁹But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.** *[NOTE: In 2 Tim. 2:23-26 Paul warned about arguing with such “opposers”].*

Heb. 12:25-29: *²⁵See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from Him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, “Once more **I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.**” ²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—*at is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.* ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be*

shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.”

1. On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court announced its decision to legalize “gay marriage” in all 50 states; what does all this mean?
2. Here’s a summary of what we will examine today:
 - a) This issue will be a **“sword” that divides** and separates light from darkness, truth from error; the Bride and the Harlot will become more and more distinct
 - b) **God will not be mocked** (Gal. 6:7)—there *will* be a response from heaven: greater and greater judgment must come on America!
 - c) Sadly, we will witness an **acceleration in wickedness**, lawlessness, violence and antichristian sentiment (**persecution!**)
 - d) With great power and boldness, true **Christians will preach the gospel of the Kingdom** throughout the earth which will be accompanied with mighty signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit

II. WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

A. We have now entered Phase III of **Romans 1:18-32**:

1. Phase I (vv.18-25): God gave them over [Gk. “surrendered, yielded up, delivered over”] to **sexual lust & impurity** (sexual revolution of the 1960’s)
2. Phase II (vv.26-27): God gave them over to **homosexual perversions** (exploded in the past 10 years)
3. Phase III (vv.28-32): God gave them over to a **depraved mind** [Gk. “reprobate, worthless, rejected, castaway”]
4. Iniquity will reach its “full measure”

Gen. 15:13-16: ¹³*Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶In the fourth*

generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

Rom. 1:28-32: ²⁸Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become **FILLED with every kind of wickedness**, evil, greed and depravity. They are **FULL** of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they **invent ways of doing evil**; they disobey their parents; ³¹they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³²Although 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.

- a) 100's of naked bike riders in L.A. recently
- b) 60% of Americans approve of gay marriage now
- c) Now pushing for legalization of pot in all 50 states
- d) 144 homicides in Baltimore in 1st six months of 2015 (74 in May/June since riots!)

B. God will divide light from darkness—the Bride & the Harlot will become more and more distinct: many called, few chosen

1. **Mat. 10:32-36:** ³²Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns Me before others, I will disown before My Father in heaven. ³⁴Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.** ³⁵For I have come to turn “a man against his father... ³⁶a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”
2. **Luke 12:49-56:** ⁴⁹“**I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!** ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹**Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.** ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-

law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” ⁵⁴He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. ⁵⁵And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. ⁵⁶Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. **How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?”**

3. **Rev. 22:11-12 (KJV):** ¹¹He that is unjust, let him be **unjust still**: and he which is filthy, let him be **filthy still**: and he that is righteous, let him be **righteous still**: and he that is holy, let him be **holy still**. ¹²And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

C. God will not be mocked—judgment must come

1. The White House was arrogantly bathed in rainbow lights after the Supreme Court decision, but look out!
2. **Prov. 14:34:** Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.
3. **Ps. 9:17 (KJV):** The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.
4. **Isa. 2:10-19:** ¹⁰Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty! ¹¹The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹²The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)... ¹⁵for every lofty tower and every fortified wall, ¹⁶for every trading ship and every stately vessel. ¹⁷The **arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled**; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day... ¹⁹People will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, **when He rises to shake the earth**.
5. **2 Pet. 2:4-9:** ⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; ⁵if He did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶if He condemned the cities of **Sodom**

and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and **made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;**
⁷and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was **distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless** ⁸(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was **tormented** in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he **saw and heard**)— ⁹if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

6. NOTE: In Gen.18-19, the outcry against Sodom had reached heaven; despite Abraham's "bargaining intercession" (50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10), there were only 4 righteous in the whole city (and one turned to salt looking back!)
- D. Many will be deceived & fall away, but a small group will stand firm to the end, fearlessly preaching the gospel:

Mat. 24:4-14: ⁴Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one **deceives** you. ⁵For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹Then you will be handed over to be **persecuted** and put to death, and you will be **hated by all nations because of Me**. ¹⁰At that time **many will turn away from the faith** and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the **increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold**, ¹³but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And **this gospel of the kingdom will be preached** in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Choose Christ and follow Him!
- B. Be strong and stand firm to the end (Eph. 6:10-18)
- C. Rejoice because your redemption is drawing near—He who is coming will come and will not delay!
- D. Rev. 22:17 – Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen!