

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> November 5, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> Romans 1: 18-32
<b>Topic:</b> Thanksgiving: Giving Glory to the Lord of Life	

During the course of our lives, our experiences can cause us to raise many questions. What is life? Is life just for living? What is the purpose of life? Will we have to give an account for life? In the book of Romans, Paul addresses several issues dealing with life and purpose. The first eight chapters of Romans deal with the matter of being in right relationship with God. In Romans 1: 18-32, Paul specifically address the wrath of God.

<b>Wrath resulted from Wretched acts of humankind, so we were left to...</b>	<b>CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS...</b>
❖ Warped Minds	❖ No lifting up of thanks
<b>Mankind is shown here to be...</b>	❖ No limit in acts
❖ Ungrateful	❖ No Lord over their lives
❖ Un-girded	
❖ Unguided	

In verses 18-20, Paul seems to identify a people without excuse. He speaks of truth that's:

- Purposely suppressed (verse 18)
- Made plain by Sovereign God (verse 19)
- Perceivable by what is seen (verse 20)

This is a call to *watch what takes hold of our hearts*, which demands of us that we yield to the truth. The fact is that being unthankful makes us cold to the Lord.

In verses 21-27, Paul speaks of a people of wild exchange because of various traits and behaviors that were displayed. The people being spoken of in these verses:

- Ignored God – chose darkness over light (21)
- Were Ignorant – chose inanimate over immortal (22-23)
- Were Impure – chose degradation over delight (24)
- Were Impaired – chose lies over the truth (25)
- Had Inversed desire – chose unnatural over natural (26-27a)
- Were Impoverished – chose poverty over prosperity of body and soul (27b)

Highlighting such behavior speaks of a call to *watch what takes hold of our bodies*. This demands of us to yield to thanksgiving because being unthankful makes us captivated by lusts.

In verses 28-32, Paul addresses a people without enlightenment, so characterized because they:

- Abandoned knowledge of God (28)
- Accepted all kinds of ungodliness (29-31)
- Approved kinkiness as good (32)

This is a calling to *watch what takes hold of our minds*. God demands of us to yield to Godly thinking because being unthankful makes us closed to Light.

Without honoring God as the giver and sweetener of life, true thanksgiving will be lacking. We ought to carefully weigh the benefits of living to please self against living to please God. We should also seek to walk in and with Him who is the way, the truth and the life.