

SERMON NOTES ♦ JANUARY 18, 2009
An Even More Inconvenient Truth

SERMON TEXT

Romans 1:24-32 (ESV)

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

NOTES

I. An Inconvenient Truth...

II. An Even More Inconvenient Truth: "God gave them up..."

a. "To impurity" (vv. 24-25).

b. "To dishonorable passions" (vv. 26-27).

c. "To a debased mind" (vv. 28-32).

III. An Even More Powerful Truth: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16)...

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

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PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff
clay@moorevillefirstpres.org

The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care and Missions
fred@moorevillefirstpres.org

Rev. Tyler Domske, Associate Pastor for Youth
tyler@moorevillefirstpres.org

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Alan Sledge, Director of Music
alan@moorevillefirstpres.org

Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education
ellen@moorevillefirstpres.org

Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool
nancy@moorevillefirstpres.org

LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer
luanne@moorevillefirstpres.org

Nellie Goodman, Secretary
nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org

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Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

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Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

January 18, 2009 ♦ 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome and Ritual of Friendship Clay Brown

Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.
An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.
Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

Invocation

Prelude: *Jesus Paid It All*

Christy Floyd

Grape

Choral Call to Worship: *How Marvelous Are the Works of the Lord* Angerman

Chancel Choir

*Hymn #11: *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*

ST. THOMAS

Time with the Children

Tyler Domske

Call to Confession

Fred Coates

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, we confess we are often indifferent to your will.
You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior; Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Response #34: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 32:1-11 Pew Bible, pp. 488-9
Jim Davidson

*Hymn #373: *Change My Heart, O God*

New Testament Reading: Romans 1:24-32 Sermon Notes
Sermon: *An Even More Inconvenient Truth* Clay Brown

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Minute for Mission Missions Committee

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *Ascribe to the Lord* Martin
Chancel Choir

*Response #688: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (v. 1) SCHUMANN
We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

TAKING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

*Hymn #407: *I Know Whom I Have Believed* (vv. 1-3) EL NATHAN

*Invitation to Discipleship and Opportunities to Serve

*Charge and Benediction

*Response #407: *I Know Whom I Have Believed* (v. 4) EL NATHAN
I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noon-day fair, nor if I'll walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air. But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."

*Postlude: *Close to Thee* Vail

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Helen McCullough by Nancy and John Smith.

Recent Prayer Requests: Missy McNeely Lowrance, Lucy Hastings' sister; Lynn Brooks; Carolyn Brawley; mothers of Pam Winters and Mary Beth Stutts; Chris Creech's brother and father; Rebecca Auten; Dean Washburn; Fred Hoke; Bedo Culberson; Aimee Culler's father; Lottie Massey; Don Fair; Mary Voils Aven; Bob Davidson; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Cathy Brown's parents; David Ortwein, Ken Bernd's nephew; Martha Andrews; EO3SW Laban Thompson and all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Italian Renaissance Art Tour and Dinner: A special evening is being planned for this Thursday, January 22, and includes a catered dinner (\$8) and art lecture in the parlor, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jeannette Cox, Docent Emeritus of the National Gallery of Art, will present an Italian Renaissance Art Tour, with emphasis particularly on the transition that Renaissance art brings to the role of faith and the church. Reservations are essential. Please call the church office by this Tuesday, January 20, to make a reservation.

Saints Alive Luncheon: The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$4) will be held this Tuesday, January 20, at **1:30 p.m.** Please note the time change, to enable participants to watch presidential inauguration activities prior to the luncheon. This month's program will be presented by Bob and Mimi Dobbins and will feature their recent trip to Antarctica. Come and bring a friend!

"Discovering God's Way of Handling Money": We're offering a short Friday-Saturday workshop, Jan. 30-31, on managing your money. This video and application based workshop is from Crown Financial Ministries, a recognized leader in helping people to discover and apply Biblical principles for our personal finances. We will meet on Fri. from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and on Sat. from 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for \$5 per person. Child care will be provided by advance reservation. Participants will need a course workbook available at the workshop for \$10 each. Please register by contacting the church office at 704-664-5275 or nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org. If you have questions, contact Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or clay@moorevillefirstpres.org.

It's Chili Cook-off time again: January 25, 2009 will be a great opportunity to see just how well your chili measures up! To submit an entry in the contest, simply make a crockpot of your favorite chili to share and to be judged by popular vote. Votes will be made by the depositing of checks or cash (one vote per dollar) in your favorite chili's voting pot. All proceeds from the voting will be divided among local Mooresville charities. Admission is only \$4 for adults and \$2 for children (with a family maximum of \$15.)

PYF will be leaving for Wolf Ridge Ski Resort today at 1:30 p.m.

Lent will be upon us before we know it. This coming Lent we will have our "Lent in the Living Room" small group emphasis. We meet in the homes of church members and discuss the Scripture passage that will be preached the following Sunday. This year we will focus on the Passion of Christ from the Gospel of Mark. We need host homes and facilitators. A host home is a person, couple, or family who allows a Lent in the Living Room group to meet in their home once a week for six weeks, from the week of February 22-28 through the week of March 29-April 4. A facilitator is someone who covenants to lead the group discussion, using the discussion questions provided in the Lent in the Living Room booklet. If you're interested in serving in either or both roles or have questions, please contact Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or clay@moorevillefirstpres.org.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 18 - 25, 2009

Sunday 1/18: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
1:30 p.m. - PYF Ski trip
5:30 p.m. - Catechism Club

Monday: ML King Birthday – Office Closed
7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the Coates' home

Tuesday: Newsletter Deadline
10:30 a.m. - *Exploring Our Reformed Faith* Group
1:30 p.m. - Saints Alive Luncheon
7:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Hollywood Stars* night
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
6:30 p.m. - Art Lecture and Dinner in the parlor

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - Cotillion

Sunday 1/25: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:00 p.m. - Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Chili Cook-off
TBA - Session