

## A REPRESENTATIONAL STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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### THE FIELD OF UNPREFIXED MINDS: ROMANS 1:18-32

#### INTRODUCTION AND TERMINOLOGY:

The condition of mankind--unsaved--has several elements from eternity that have come to bear upon it. The wrath of God, one of the revealed elements of His mind, is an eternal prefix; as is its manifestation, the fact that God "gave them over" to their own unprefixated inclinations. The result is what we might call the "field of unprefixated minds" is manifold: the denial of the prefixated nature of the universe, the diminution of intellect, the reaching of unprefixated conclusions, the evolution of an unprefixated society, and the rejection of absolute symbolic prefix: the history of the Gentile cosmology.

Verses 19 and 20 show that a prefix was bored into our minds at birth, and our minds must be prefixated so that we can properly and accurately understand creation, which itself manifests His nature. When we cut the prefix off, operating on our own depraved minds, it acts as a suppression of the truth. The field of unprefixated minds is the true idol of mankind, because all idolatrous practices come through an unprefixated mind, the seedbed of idolatry.

Similarly, we can see the role of prefix in preventing sin. The homosexual, for instance, should have access to the knowledge of a prefix that would prevent his sinning by his fear of the wrath of God. Since all actions are prefixated, if we lose the prefix we leave ourselves open to sin. Extrusion to prefix is cause to effect.

#### SCRIPTURE TEXT:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For, though they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal men and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men

committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not be done. They 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, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although 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.

--Romans 1:18-32

#### ELEMENTS OF THE THEMATIC:

The thematic shows the horseshoe-shaped element of the prefix, which both precedes in time as well as shapes and subsumes everything to its right. This prefixing action took place before time, in eternity, concerning those of whom Paul spoke in Romans 1:18-32. It is the wrath of God of verse 18; and its result is that "God gave them over" to the inevitable results of their thinking processes--sin.

Such an unprefixing mind as Paul describes has a profile, or what we might call a field with certain characteristics. As the thematic shows, this profile can describe either an individual or a collectivity or even a societal culture. Those who deny the God-prefixed structure of the universe and opt instead to operate autonomously actually put themselves under the power of the prefix of God's wrath (whether they recognize and acknowledge it or not.) Their intellect becomes diminished, even depraved, as human self-reference manifests itself through the enthronement of creativity, sinful desires and actions, and lies.

#### GENERALIZATIONS DERIVED FROM THE THEMATIC AND FROM THE TEXT:

- 1) This field of unprefixing minds is the logical result of the suppression of truth. Verses 19 and 20 indicate that there is a prefix that is bored into our minds, so to speak, at birth. Everything created by God that surrounds us was intended by Him to serve as a manifestation of the prefix of His power and divine nature. Those two godly qualities are inherently invisible, but manifested by the created order on the seen side of reality. Only by the human tendency to suppress those truths would any other conclusions about God be reached.
- 2) In verses 21 and 22 we see the process by which humans actually diminish their own intellects, when their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Because they don't know that all their temporal existence is prefixed by the wrath of God (they refuse to recognize the symbols of His nature and power), their oblivion makes them fools.
- 3) Such an unprefixing mind will naturally come to unprefixing conclusions operating on diminished intellect. Thus the symbols on which such a mind

would operate would be unprefix symbols as well. Man and his thinking processes would be elevated ("the measure of all things" of the Enlightenment period) and a circular pattern would develop: cut off the divine prefix by suppressing the truth, operate on a diminished intellect, become depraved-- and a depraved mind would logically suppress the truth.

- A) Such profound human self reference would reject revelation in favor of creativity, and the elevation of the human potential.
  - B) Even the desires of the heart would reflect the lack of prefix: verse 24 shows the progression to a hunger for the sinful.
  - C) And such a process would go from ignorance of God's prefix to an actual institutionalization of unprefixity which Paul identifies as "lies," a deliberate attempt to deny God's truth.
- 4) By charting how this would occur in an individual, it is easy to see how an unprefix sociology could develop. An idol, in fact, reflects the field of unprefix minds, and all the heinous things Paul lists would be provisions of such a sociology: homosexuality, wickedness, evil, strife, insolence, greed, deceit, depravity, malice, envy, gossiping, murder, slander, even hatred of God Himself.
- 5) Again, we see the connection of the rejection of God's absolute prefix in verse 28 to the depraved mind. In order for someone to operate on human self reference, such a person must necessarily reject the prefix of the wrath of God or he would be prevented from sinning to avoid what that wrath could bring.

We can see how a Gentile cosmology of Paul's day, and of ours, could develop by rejecting the acknowledging of the prefix of God. Christians, on the other hand, don't operate solely out of their knowledge of the repercussions of disobedience (the wrath of God) but also out of the comforting knowledge of the prefix of the good intentions of God toward us as explained in Romans 8:28.

For a Christian, situations and relationships are prefixed. Familial, vocational, even governmental relationships are prefixed. Our responsibility is to make sure that those we teach, and especially our children, know of such prefixes so that they can remain obedient and receive the blessings that God intends for them and us.