**Read Romans 1:18-32**

**Born to be free?**

What is freedom?  Is it the right to live and act as we feel?  Would that not be chaos?  Would not chaos ultimately restrict and enslave?  Freedom is choice; the choice to live in the fullness and order of God’s will or under the subjection and constructs of human will.  C.S. Lewis, author and theologian, describes it in this manner, “If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having”.

In this passage, the ***root*examples** of godlessness and unrighteousness are indicated as:

* Suppressing the truth (v.18)
* Did not glorify Him as God (v.21)
* Did not express gratitude (v.21)
* Worshipped something created instead of the Creator (v.25)

*In other words, God became secondary and lacked true priority in their lives.*

As a result, God’s wrath was revealed (v.18) in that He allowed and even delivered them over to their degrading passions of sexual impurity, homosexuality (v.24, 26) and immoral actions (v.28).  Furthermore, their unrighteousness was typified by brokenness in relationships and a distorted understanding of self, e.g. envy, murder, disputes, arrogance, etc.  That is, essentially God gave them the freedom to live in sin as they so pleased which ultimately destroys and results in death.

Sin and unrighteousness are a choice; it is the choice to deny and disobey God.  It is not an alternative lifestyle but, a destructive and debilitating force against God’s will.   Let us remember that we are called to righteousness and therefore deny all godlessness as we live to fulfill His will in our lives!