

Romans 1:32

who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

When you read today's verse, you may be wondering what "*such things*" that Paul is mentioning are? Well, to find out, we just have to read a few verses back.

† **Romans 1:29-31** *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*

So, when you read that list of things done by the world, you may be thinking, "*Man, I'm so happy I don't do those things anymore*" because that's what we used to be before coming to Jesus Christ. And we should be commended for not doing these things anymore. But Paul is not talking about us no longer doing them, but rather, even though we are not doing them, are we still approving of them?

"*No way*", you may be thinking. But if you are not speaking out against them, and keeping silent, then in a sense you are approving of them.

Your little girl moves in with her boyfriend (or your son with his girlfriend) and you stay silent, you are approving of this sinful relationship.

The movie you are watching has constant profanity and nudity and sex scenes and you sit there and watch it, you are approving of it.

That one song you listen to, full of sexual innuendos and profanity here and there, and you don't take it off your play list, in fact you turn it up every time it comes on, you are approving of it.

You say you don't do these things, yet you enjoy watching and listening to others who live it out for you on the big screen, TV or in music. But you think you are ok because you are not actually doing it yourself, yet you are ok with someone else doing it. "*but also approve of those who practice them*"

When I read today's verse in the Message Bible, I thought how awards are given out for those who "*practice such things*".

† **Romans 1:32 (MSG)** *And it's not as if they don't know better. They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care—worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!*

Did you see it? “*they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!*” Sin is celebrated by giving awards for those who “*practice such things*” on the big screen or in music. TV shows celebrate these peoples lifestyles and make it look glamorous, yet its full of sin. And those who watch such things do so, because once again, they are not doing it, but live it out by watching others do it.

Think of it this way, you are allowing someone to go to hell with their sinful lifestyle and the things they say and show with their bodies (Nudity, sex, murder, profanity, etc..) because you want to be entertained with such things, and so you can skip off to heaven because you are no longer doing those things yourself, while you could care less if they are going to hell or not as long as you are entertained by them.

I know this is not a easy devotional for a Monday, or any day, but how much of it is true in your life? Maybe not to the extent that I mentioned, but how many things are you allowing into your home, into your mind, and into your heart?

“*So what do I do?*” You may be thinking. Simple, remove them from your home, your mind and your heart. Don’t watch those movies, don’t listen to those songs and take them off your playlist, don’t go to those places, don’t keep silent about those who are in sin and claim to be believers. And then replace them with good movies, good songs, good places to go, and good godly counsel to others.

You have heard the saying, “*You are what you eat*” but here is a new one, “*You are what you approve of*” If you approve of sin, your life will reflect a lifestyle of sin. But, if you approve of the things of God, you will become a man or woman of God.

- † **Psalm 50:16-19 (NLT2)** *But God says to the wicked: “Why bother reciting my decrees and pretending to obey my covenant? For you refuse my discipline and treat my words like trash. When you see thieves, you approve of them, and you spend your time with adulterers. Your mouth is filled with wickedness, and your tongue is full of lies.*
- † **Ezekiel 18:21** *But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.*
- † **Psalm 23:3** *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*