

“The Reprobate”

Discussion Guide: Inspired By Pastor Willie Joe Lightfoot Sr.

Summary

Pastor Lightfoot delivered a sobering message about the reprobate mind from Romans 1:28, explaining how individuals, communities, and nations can drift away from God through repeated rejection of His truth. The sermon outlined five key points: what a reprobate mind is (one that no longer discerns right from wrong or responds to conviction), how it develops (through a process of knowing God but refusing to glorify Him), signs in our generation (moral confusion, lack of shame, hostility toward God), dangers for believers and the church, and how to guard against it. The pastor emphasized that this isn't just about sexual immorality but a broader pattern of rejecting God's truth, leading to God giving people over to their own destructive desires. He warned that believers can drift toward reprobation through ignoring conviction, justifying sin, replacing Scripture with culture, tradition and choosing comfort over obedience.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, asking that You would open our minds and spirits to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to be sensitive to Your Holy Spirit and guard us from hardened hearts. Give us wisdom and understanding as we discuss Your Word together. We pray that You would speak to each person in this group according to their need and help us to retain You in our knowledge. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you're grateful for that happened to you this week, big or small?

Key Verses

- ☐ Romans 1:28
- ☐ Proverbs 14:12
- ☐ Hebrews 3:15
- ☐ Titus 1:16
- ☐ Proverbs 3:6
- ☐ James 1:22

Questions

- ✓ What does it mean to have a reprobate mind according to Romans 1:28, and how does this differ from simply being uninformed about God?
- ✓ The pastor mentioned that reprobation often begins with people who knew God but refused to glorify Him. How can believers today guard against this same pattern?
- ✓ What are some examples of moral confusion that you see in our current culture, and how should Christians respond to these situations?
- ✓ How can we tell the difference between a healthy conviction from the Holy Spirit versus unhealthy guilt or condemnation?
- ✓ The sermon emphasized retaining God in our knowledge and acknowledging Him in all our ways. What are some practical ways to do this in daily life?
- ✓ What does it mean to saturate our minds with Scripture, and how can we make this a regular practice?
- ✓ How do we balance showing love and grace to others while also guarding our influences and avoiding evil communication?
- ✓ The pastor said if you push God out long enough, He will let you have the life you insist on, even if it destroys you. How does this truth both warn and motivate us in our faith journey?

Life Application

This week, practice immediate obedience when you feel convicted by the Holy Spirit about something. Whether it's apologizing to someone, changing a habit, or taking a step of faith, don't delay in responding to God's prompting. Also, examine your influences - are the people, media, and conversations in your life drawing you closer to God or pulling you away from Him? Make one specific change to guard your heart and mind this week.

Key Takeaways

- A reprobate mind is one that no longer discerns right from wrong, responds to conviction, or desires truth - it's uninterested in God, not just uninformed
- Reprobation develops through a process: knowing God but refusing to glorify Him, having vain imaginations, darkened hearts, rejecting truth, and finally not wanting God in their knowledge
- Signs of reprobate thinking in our generation include moral confusion, sin without shame, hostility toward God, celebrating wickedness, and rejecting sound doctrine
- Believers can guard against reprobation by retaining God in their knowledge, staying sensitive to conviction, saturating their minds with Scripture, guarding their influences, and practicing immediate obedience
- God will eventually give people over to their own destructive desires if they persistently reject Him - this is both a warning and a call to return to God, while He may be found

Ending Prayer

Father God, we thank You for Your Word that serves as both a warning and a guide for our lives. Help us to never take Your grace for granted or become hardened to Your voice. Keep our hearts tender toward You and sensitive to the conviction of Your Holy Spirit. Protect us from the influences that would lead us away from You and help us to be people who retain You in all our knowledge and acknowledge You in all our ways. Give us the strength to practice immediate obedience when You speak to our hearts. We pray for anyone who may be drifting away from You - soften their hearts and draw them back to Yourself. Thank You for Your patience and mercy toward us. In Jesus mighty name we pray, Amen.