

Romans

Romans 1:18 - 3:20

A World Under Sin and Condemnation

The Relation of Divine Wrath Against All Humanity

- Revelation of the Wrath of God
 - vs. 18 God's wrath against men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
 - These men know the truth
 - These men *SUPPRESS* or *HOLD* the truth
 - Greek *katecho* – (1) to hold fast or possess (1 Cor 7:30) OR (2) to hold down, suppress, restrain, or hinder (2 Thes 2:6f)
 - These men do so in unrighteousness
 - God *REVEALS* –current tense- His wrath against these men
 - The explanation of God's wrath takes up the rest of the chapter and is divided into 3 parts

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- 1) Possession of the Truth
 - vs 19 God made it known to them
 - It is evident within them
 - vs 20 God revealed the truth to them in His creation
 - God made it evident to all mankind that creation was not an accident. That creation was purposeful and intentional. He revealed enough of Himself in His creation to leave humanity without an excuse of ignorance of Him
 - Natural order of the universe
 - God made man in His image
 - God breathed life into all living creatures
 - The macroscopic and microscopic universe reveal this divine order from subatomic particles, to cellular mechanics, to procreation, and through exploration of our known universe -- all these things reveal God.

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- 2) Rejection of the Truth
 - vs 21 Knowing God they rejected Him
 - They did not recognize His deity
 - They did not give thanks for His good gifts
 - “They became **futile** in their reasonings”
 - Greek *mataioo* – *resultlessness, fruitless, useless, no purpose*
 - Their reasonings did not bring them to the proper goal
 - vs 22 “*Claiming wisdom they became fools*”
 - Foolishness led to idolatry
 - vs 23 They exchanged the glory of God for idols
 - Foolishness led to idolatry
 - Is it any different today? Does our society partake in this foolishness?
 - Witness the fantastic theories invented to explain God away.

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- 3) Consequence: Abandonment to sin
 - Vs 24 “*Therefore*”
 - Greek – *dio* – *on which account*
 - Because of humanity’s rejection of God...
 - God gave them up, delivered them over to their sins
 - vs 25-27 Sin punished with sin
 - Sin runs its course and reaches its natural end – death – separation from God
 - In the very practice of homosexuality people were “receiving in themselves the due penalty of their errors” – The error was abandonment of God – exchanging the truth of God for a lie.
 - The perversion of homosexuality is a punishment, the due penalty for the rejection of God.
 - They began by dishonoring God, they ended by dishonoring themselves.

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- vs 28 – *“And just as they **did not see fit to acknowledge God**”*
 - A play on words
 - Greek – dikimazo – this means they tested and tried God and found him unfit or unworthy to be retained in their knowledge.
 - This was a misuse of their mind, and God punished them accordingly.
 - *“God gave them up to a depraved mind” with all the consequences listed in verses 29-31*
 - *This is the consequence of such misuse of the mind*
 - *vs 29-31 - “people having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unfeeling, and unmerciful;”*

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- vs 32 – *“but also approve of those who practice them.”*
 - The culmination of the description of this unrighteousness
 - In today’s world, moral philosophers calmly and dispassionately figuring out a rational to justify the sinful life, instead of falling into sin in the heat of passion
- To sum it up...
 - This righteous abandonment is not the final judgement and does not imply these people can not be saved
 - This is part of Paul’s demonstration of humanity’s need for salvation, not a demonstration that it can not be saved
 - The prodigal son came to his senses in the pig pen and all over the Roman empire, Paul found people who were sick of sin, having found out what it comes to and looking for something better.
 - The modern world shows evidence of returning to paganism. It shows itself, in the light of Romans 1:18-32 to be a world under the wrath of God

Next Week

- Chapter 2:1-20 The Judgment of God: None Exempt by Respect of Persons (2:1–16)
- And if time...
- Special Application of the Principles of Judgment to the Jews (2:17–29)