

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"What Makes God Angry?"
Romans 1:18-23
Study-4

Mark 2:16-17

Condemnation (World) – Romans 1:18-3:20

1. The Heathen Guilty (Gentiles), 1:18-32
2. The Moral Man Guilty, 2:1-16
3. The Jews Guilty, 2:17-3:8
4. The Whole World Guilty, 3:9-20

Romans 3:19-20

Thought Of Our Passage: "God's Righteous Anger Is Revealed Against Those Who Suppress The Truth And To Those Who Pervert The Truth."

1. Verses 18-20 – Unbelief – Suppression Of Truth

2. Verses 21-23 – Unbelief – Perversion Of Truth

1. Verses 18-20 – Unbelief – Suppression Of Truth:

Romans 1:18 – "For" – (Context) Paul left off with the "Power of the Gospel," Romans 1:16.

1:18-3:20 – Paul makes it clear that all can be saved! None are out of His reach!

Verse 18 – The Gospel Reveals God's Wrath: "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven" – "being revealed from heaven" – it is being manifested by the invisible resistance of God to the evil of men.

"The Wrath Of God" is spoken about in 3 different ways in Scripture:

- 1. Ultimate Wrath (Lake Of Fire) – Revelation 20**
- 2. Great Tribulation – Revelation 6-19, Revelation 7:16; "Wrath of the lamb."**
- 3. Abandoned By God (Given To Desires) – Romans 1:18-32**

"For the wrath of God" – "anger"

There are two Greek words for "Wrath":

1. The Greek word "thumos" – by which we get our word thermometer and thermos. This is speaking of "red hot anger, an impulsive anger."
2. The Greek word "Orge" – which speaks of "a settle abiding condition, it is controlled, a perfect, settled and controlled." (God's anger-wrath) Murry said, "Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of His holiness."

"wrath of God is revealed from heaven" – "is being revealed continuously."
The wrath of God is part of the righteousness of God, Romans 1:17.

"is revealed from heaven" – We see here both sides of who God is. His Righteousness and His Judgment. Because God is righteous, He hates sin!

"ungodliness" – "sin against the being of God;" wickedness, speaking of deeds that are done against God; it is what we call the "secular" attitude. It doesn't necessarily deny that there is a God, but it never takes any account of him; it doesn't expect him to be active.

"unrighteousness" – "sin against the will of God," its injustice, wrongfulness (of character, life or act) iniquity, unjust. (Moral sinner) Against man, or humanity. It's selfish and hurtful acts of men toward one another. Why do we act selfishly? Why do we hurt each other? Because we disregard God.

It starts with Ungodliness which is a life without God. It is sin against God. This is the foundational problem. Then comes Unrighteousness which results in sin against man and God's standards.

The Reason For God's Wrath: "who suppress" – means "holding something down." It is the idea of "continual and aggressive striving against the truth;" Unbelief – rejection of the truth.

Verse 19 – God's Witness Is Unmistakable: Romans 1:19 – Built within each human being is this knowledge that there is a master designer.

"for God made it evident to them." – The word "evident" – "plain, manifest"

Verse 20 – God's Witness Is Universal: Romans 1:20.

Natural Theology – This is God revealing Himself to all of mankind; That all people receive this revelation; About His power and His existence.

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes,” – God’s invisible qualities.

“His eternal power” – God Is Powerful.

“and divine nature,” – God’s Existence

“have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,”

Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1-2; Acts 14:17

“so that they are without excuse.” – People want to Suppress this Truth!

2. Verses 21-23 – Unbelief – Perversion Of Truth:

Romans 1:21 – “For even though they knew God,” – How do we know that they knew God? Paul just said God is revealed through nature. His power and existence are revealed.

Atheism Is A Lie – Atheism is a rejection of the truth, a suppression of the truth!

Paul Presents 7 Steps Downward, The Result Of Rejecting God:

Step 1, Step Down – They Knew God But Refused To Honor Him: “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God,” – Ignored; They would not give God His rightful place in their lives.

Man has become self-sufficient: That He can do it without God.

Step 2, Step Down – They Were Not Thankful: “or give thanks;” – Ingratitude.

Jesus healed ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19, only one came back and thanked Him!

Entitlement – We are living in an age of ungrateful people.

Step 3, Step Down – Began Speculating Foolishly: “but they became futile in their speculations,” – Became vain in their reasoning.

Futile thinking means that clever ideas and procedures and programs will fall apart and come to nothing.

Step 4, Step Down – Their Heart Became Senseless & Darkened: “and their foolish heart was darkened.” – The heart means the real you, the hidden person. Heart – It means “all of man’s faculties, moral, intellect and reasoning powers were darkened.”

Romans 1:22 – “Professing to be wise, they became fools,”

Step 5, Step Down – They Thought They Were Wise: “Professing to be wise,” – This is what man thinks today; Thinks he is as wise as God!

1 Corinthians 1:21 – “world through its wisdom did not come to know God,”

Step 6, Step Down – Mankind Became Very Foolish: “they became fools,” – the word fools, “Moros.” This is the same word by which we get “moron.” This is not the intellect that is described but the moral condition; “a person who willfully makes moral decisions contrary to God, opposition to God.”

Psalm 14:1

Progressive thinking.

Step 7, Step Down – Worshipping Creatures Over The Creator: “and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man” –This is the worship of man. (From Injury to insult)

“and crawling creatures.” – Worship of reptiles,
Isaiah 44:12-17.

Application:

1. The Mess Of Our Age Can Be Traced Back To The Suppression/Rejection Of The Revelation Of God (His Eternal Power, Divine Nature). We Are Also Witnessing The Perversion Of The Truth.
2. Nobody Can Plead Innocence, Because Nobody Can Plead Ignorance.
3. As Powerful As The Gospel Is, There Is One Thing That It Cannot Do: It Cannot Save Any Man Until He Sees Himself As Guilty, Lost, And A Condemned Sinner.