



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel and Wrath!

Romans 1:18-32

Message #3 of 33 – S1126

Sermon given on November 3, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel and Wrath!

Romans 1:18-32

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 1**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel and Wrath!**
- The first seventeen verses of Romans introduce us to Paul and lets us know that he is writing to the Christians in Rome, Italy.
- He also tells us that his calling is to preach the gospel.
- The word gospel literally means good news.
- The good news of Jesus Christ is that God sent Jesus to save us from the penalty of our sins.
- And when we put our trust in Jesus and believe, God forgives us and then promises to take us to heaven someday.
- If the gospel is the good news, then we can deduce that there is also bad news.
- If Jesus came to save us, then He must have saved us out of something.
- In today's text we are going to look at that something.
- This is not going to be a fun or light message.
- It is a look into the darkness that we are saved from.
- It is a look into the darkness the unbelievers around us are still trapped in.
- Let's begin with something we don't like to think about.
- **Romans 1:18**
- Turn to **John 3**.
- The second half of Romans 1 is an expansion upon.
- **John 3:16-20**
- There are two options, only two – condemned because of sin or delivered from condemnation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- God desires that people escape condemnation by turning from their sins to Him through faith (**2 Peter 3:9**).

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- This text focuses on the condemnation side of the equation.
- This section is offensive to many people in the world – usually because it is speaking about them.
- Turn back to **Romans 1**.
- This text begins with three reasons why the world is condemned.
- The first one is the **Suppression of God’s Word**.
- This text opens with the phrase, ‘the wrath of God.’
- God is perfectly holy, and His creation was holy in the beginning.
- Sin came in and corrupted the holiness of God’s creation. God’s holy response to that corruption is wrath.
- But because God is love He postpones wrath hoping the sinner will repent and escape it.
- Ungodliness is not giving God proper respect – acting as if God doesn’t exist.
- Unrighteousness is acting as if God’s laws do not exist or apply to you.
- ‘suppress the truth’ – God gave the world His truth through the Old Testament prophets.
- Rather than accept God’s Word by faith, they chose to suppress it or hold it down.
- The second reason the world is condemned is: **For Ignoring God’s Revelation**.
- **Romans 1:19-20**
- God made it so that the world could clearly see the reality of His existence.
- The person of God cannot be seen with human eyes (**John 4:24**). **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**
- We see God by faith in His creation and in His Word.
- The creation of God proves the reality of Creator God (**Psalms 19:1**). **The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.**
- There are people who have never heard of Christ.

- They are still guilty of rejecting God in whatever way He has revealed Himself to them.
- ‘they are without excuse’ – God has given everyone enough light to trust in and believe in Him.
- There are some who say rejecting Christ is how someone ends up being lost.
- They were lost already, Christ just offered them a way to be saved.
- To reject Christ after hearing the gospel doesn’t make someone more lost – they just continue to be lost, but in the judgment will have to pay the price for rejecting salvation.
- The third reason why God will judge the world is: **For Perverting God’s Glory!**
- **Romans 1:21-23**
- Suppressing the truth of God and rejecting the glory of God leads to the perverting of God’s glory through idolatry – worshipping something other than God.
- The human heart was created with a need to worship God.
- If someone rejects God, they will find something else to fill their need to worship.
- Rejecting the truth that God exists and that you were created to worship Him has a natural consequence, your thoughts become futile, useless, incapable of producing good results.
- Not only that, but the heart becomes darkened, unable or unwilling to understand truth and experience the light the truth produces.
- **Romans 1:22-23**
- The Word of God is truth and true.
- If you reject God, you are rejecting the only source of truth.
- If you reject truth, all that is left is the lie.
- You can’t really say you are wise no matter how well you know the lie.
- The ultimate example of foolishness is to substitute a false god with the One True Creator God and think that false god is going to do something good for you.
- This is a violation of the first commandment God gave to Moses.

- Once you break the first commandment it becomes easier to break all the rest of them.
- Next comes the natural consequences of suppressing the truth of God, ignoring the revelation of His existence, and perverting His glory.
- **Romans 1:24-25**
- One of the blessings of being one of God’s children is that we experience His amazing grace, blessings, and protection.
- If someone chooses to reject God, they should not have expectation of those things.
- In fact, God will withdraw those things and let them experience the fruit of their sin.
- This is how God has dealt with His people for thousands of years (**Psalm 81:11-12**).

But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would *have none of Me*.¹² So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels.

- If you reject God and desire to live life without Him, He will give you what you ask for, not to bless you but to curse you.
- Some people might believe that these things that follow are why God is going to judge them.
- God has already judged them for suppressing the truth, ignoring the revelation, and perverting His glory.
- Three times the text says, “God gave them up/over to...”
- The fact that people are doing those things is not why God will judge them – it is the evidence that God has already judged them.
- The list begins with ‘uncleanness’ – filth, impurity, sexual immorality.
- God made us sexual creatures, and then He gave us marriage as the place where those passions can be expressed and enjoyed in a God-glorifying way.
- Our culture has almost totally lost this truth, and the idea of saving yourself until marriage is seen as foreign and silly.
- All physical intimacy outside of marriage is sin.
- Fulfilling the lusts of the heart dishonors your body and is a sign of being far from God.
- God made your body for a specific and special purpose.

- Using it in a godless and unrighteous way is dishonoring to God and degrading to you.
- **Romans 1:26-27**
- These verses have been criticized and challenged for generations.
- As our culture's morals slip further away from God's perfection, the more people want to reinterpret these verses to say something that makes them less confrontational.
- As you study the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, you will find two prohibitions that rise to the top: idolatry and sexual immorality.
- Both deny God's sovereignty and diminish the glory of God.
- Same-sex relationships are sinful, but Paul is saying that the reason they are engaging in these sinful relationships is because God has judged them for rejecting Him, suppressing His truth, and worshipping something other than Him.
- Same-sex relationships are not the only symptom of God's judgment.
- **Romans 1:28-32**
- The key to understanding this is the phrase, 'those who practice such things...'
- The word 'practice' is a verb in the present tense, active voice.
- That means this is how they are living their lives.
- If we choose to love God, we experience the blessings He bestows upon His children and His Spirit, living inside us, helps to keep away from shameful and sinful things.
- If we reject Him, we gives us over to the vile passions of our unrighteous and ungodly hearts.
- Paul closes this chapter saying that people who choose to live apart from God are deserving of death.
- While this is literally referring to physical death, he is also referring to eternal spiritual death.
- He then goes on to say that those who 'approve of those who practice them' are also deserving of death.
- Believers must be very careful of who they associate with.

- We cannot approve of people who are actively doing any of the things listed in verses 26 to 31.
- There is no way for us to cover all the nuances and possible gray areas that arise in a conversation like this.
- But since we have an election just two days from now, let me give you an example of how this might play out in how you vote.
- This is just one issue out of many that should help us choose who to vote for.
- I grew up in a time when people engaging in same-sex relationships were shamed and stigmatized.
- Over the decades that has been replaced with parades and celebrations.
- It has also led to some other things.
- Most recently it is ideology of gender identity.
- That has culminated in children ‘identifying’ as a gender other than the one God gave them.
- That then led to some parents and social activists encouraging them to alter their gender.
- They are giving them puberty blockers which have a high probability of making them unable to ever have children.
- And they are going so far as to permanently mutilate their bodies with gender reassigning surgeries. It is cruel, barbaric, child abuse.
- One candidate says he will do everything in his power to protect children and make this practice illegal and the other fully embraces this wicked and godless practice.
- It is my strong conviction that Christians ought to be good citizens and participate in the elections of the leaders of our country.
- Jesus is not on the ballot so we must choose someone who most closely aligns with our values.
- Examine the candidates and know what they stand for.
- Vote for the candidate who is most likely to move our nation closer to God and not further away from Him. Seek God and then vote!
- If you are a believer, then the wrath of God is not something you need to worry about.
- Let’s pray for those who are not believers. **Pray! Last Song!**