

Romans 1:18-32 - The Gospel and Wrath!

Scriptures:

John 3:16-20 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

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.

^H ^{XXX} 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from

G3709 – "wrath (punishment) n. — the punitive outworking of God's righteous indignation at sin; perhaps describing an anger long-building."

G601 - ἀποκαλύπτω (apokalyptō)

heaven against all ^{XXX} ungodliness and

G763 – "impiety n. — unrighteousness by virtue of not giving proper respect for a god and the god's institutions."

^H ^{XXX} unrighteousness of men, who ^o suppress the

G93 – "unrighteousness n. — failure to adhere to moral principles, commands, or laws."

G2722 – (VPA) - prevent, hinder, restrain, keep from. 'hold down'

^H ^{XXX} truth in unrighteousness,

G225 – 'that which is in accord with what really happens, facts that correspond to a reality, whether historical (in the time/space continuum) (Lk 4:25; Ac 4:27), or an eternal reality not limited to historical fact.'

Testament prophets. Rather than accept God's Word by faith, they chose to suppress it or hold it down. That includes not letting others know God's truth. It is a very unrighteous or wicked thing to hinder the truth of God from going to those who need to hear it.

Notes:

Two of the ways you can determine right from wrong is to know what God blesses and what He condemns. If God blesses something, that means it is right and if I practice that thing, I will be in a right relationship with God. If God condemns something, it is wrong and if I practice that thing I cannot be in a right relationship with God.

God does not need our approval of what is right or wrong, He makes that determination. Our culture does not have a vote in that either. The government may issue mandates, but God is sovereign over the things of the government.

In California, it is legal to get an abortion. Even though it is legal, it is not right because God says that all life is precious and taking a life is wrong. It is not an issue of women's reproductive health – it not an issue of a women's bodily autonomy – it is not about me as a man telling a woman what she can or cannot do with her body. It is about God saying it is wrong – nothing else matters.

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). 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.

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.

'suppress the truth' – God gave the world His truth through the Old

Scriptures:
John 4:24 - God is Spirit,
and those who worship
Him must worship in spirit
and truth.

¹⁹ because what may be known of God is

G1110 -

Notes:
The second reason the world is
condemned is: **For Ignoring God's
Revelation.**

(verses 19-20) – God made it so that
the whole could clearly see the
reality of His existence. The person
of God cannot be seen ([John 4:24](#)).

manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to

G5318 – evident,
clearly seen,
visible to the
senses.

G5319 – cause to
be seen.

them.

Scriptures:
Psalm 19:1 -
The heavens declare the
glory of God;
And the firmament
shows His handiwork.

20 For since the creation of the world His [△]

G2937 -

Notes:
The creation of God proves the
reality of Creator God (Psalm 19:1).
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.

invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, [∞]

G517 – not seen.

G2529 – (Verb,
present, passive)
perceived.

being understood by the things that are

G3539 - (Verb,
present, passive)

made, *even* His [△] eternal [⇒] power and [△] Godhead,

G126 -

G1411 -

G2305 – divinity.

so that they [↗] are without excuse,

G379 -

Scriptures:

21 because, although they knew God,

G1097 – “to know (experientially) v. — to know or have knowledge about (someone or something); normally as acquired through observation or the senses.”

they did not glorify Him as God, nor

G1392 -

were thankful, but became futile in their

G2168 – be grateful.

G3154 – “to be futile v. — to be or become useless as a consequence of being purposeless or incapable of producing results.”

thoughts, and their foolish hearts

G801 – without understanding.

were darkened.

G4654 – “to become inane ⇒ darken v. — to be or become unable or unwilling to perceive or understand; conceived as becoming more deficient in light or brightness.”

Notes:

The third reason why God will judge the world is: **For Perverting God's Glory!**

(verses 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 the heart becomes darkened, unable or unwilling to understand truth and experience the light the truth produces.

No one wakes up and decides to reject God and become an idolater. It happens slowly over a long period of time after countless small choices and decisions. This is why children are so open to the gospel of Jesus – their hearts are not hardened and minds darkened. The older someone gets, the harder it is for them to go against the lie that God doesn't exist they have accepted as truth for so long.

Scriptures:

Psalm 111:10 -

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.

His praise endures forever.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

G5335 –
Declaring,
announcing.

G4680 -

G3471 – “to be foolish v. — to be or become devoid of good sense or judgment.”

Notes:

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.

“Man's refusal to acknowledge and glorify God leads to a downward path: first, worthless thinking; next, moral insensitivity; and then; religious stupidity (seen in idol-worship).” (Witmer, 2004) page 443

Scriptures:

Exodus 20:3-4 - You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible

G236 -

G862 - imperishable adj. — not being subject to breaking down (and thus lasting forever).”

Notes:

This is a violation of the first commandment God gave to Moses (Exodus 20:3-4). Once you break the first commandment it becomes easier to break all the rest of them.

God into an image made like corruptible

G1504 – likeness.

G5349 – mortal, perishable.

man—and birds and four-footed animals and

creeping things.

Scriptures:
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.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to

G3860 – give over, hand over.

uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,

G167 – ‘filth, impure, unclean things’ – Also, ‘immorality, sexual impurity.’

G1939 - evil craving n. — an inordinate, self-indulgent craving (that displaces proper affections for God).’

to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

G818 – disgrace, degrade.

Notes:
Next comes the natural consequences of suppressing the truth of God, ignoring the revelation of His existence, and perverting His glory.

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).

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 to degrading to you.

Scriptures:
Psalm 14:1 -
The fool has said in
his heart, "There is no
God."
They are corrupt,
They have done
abominable works,
There is none who does
good.

25 who exchanged the  truth of  God for the ~~lie~~ 

G3337 – traded
away.

G225 -

G5579 -

Notes:
The truth is that God exists, and He
deserves our worship and
obedience. What is the lie? The lie is
that God doesn't exist and therefore
mankind is sovereign over creation
(Psalm 14:1). The lie tries to
convince us that we don't need God.
It wants us to believe that we can be
independent of God, self-sufficient,
self-directing, and self-fulfilling. The
lie is that we can make a god in our
own image who will bow to our will
and fulfill our wishes, no matter how
evil, wicked, or depraved.




and worshiped and served the creature rather

G4573 -

G3000 – (in
religious duties)

G2937 -

We were created to worship and
serve God. To offer ourselves to
anything else is to worship and serve
a lie. People search after happiness
and fulfillment. The only true
happiness and fulfillment is found by
walking in God's truth. The lie never
gives what it promises but will leave
those who go that empty and
broken.

than the  Creator, who is  blessed  forever.

G2936 -

G2128 – 'praised,
blessed, worthy
of
commendation.'

Amen.

Scriptures:

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile

G3860 -

G819 – 'dishonor, disgrace, shame.'

Notes:
(verses 26-27) -

'against nature' – contrary to the structure of created reality.

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.

passions. For even their women exchanged

G3806 - sexual passion, lust.

G3337 -

As you study the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, you will find two prohibitions rise to the top: idolatry and sexual immorality. Both deny God's sovereignty and diminish the glory of God.

the natural use for what is against nature.

G5446 – 'natural, pertaining to things in accordance with nature, instinctual things'

G5540 - sexual function, carnal relations'

G3844 -

G5449 -

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 sign of God's judgment (verses 28-31).

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural

G863 -

G5446 -

Notes:
'leaving' - Choosing to leave.

use of the woman, burned in their lust for one

G5540 - sexual function, carnal relations.

G1572 - "to be inflamed v. — to be or become aroused or excited in feeling; often highlighting one specific passion, like sexual lust or fervor."

G3715 - 'have strong desire, formally, inflame with lust'

another, men with men committing what is

G2716 - doing.

shameful, and receiving in themselves the

G808 - indecent behavior, sexual acts forbidden and cause dishonor and shame'

penalty of their error which was due.

G489 -

G4106 - deception, delusion, perversion, moral corruption.

G1163 - 'it is necessary, is inevitable'

Scriptures:

28 And even as they did not like to retain God

Notes:

G2192 – hold on to.

in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a

debased mind, to do those things which

G96 – ‘bad, not fitting, not in accord with right; (most versions) depraved; reprobate (KJV, ASV), debased (NKJV, NRSV), undiscerning (NAB), unacceptable’

are not fitting;

G2520 - things that ought to be, proper things.

Scriptures:

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual

Notes:

G4137 -

immorality, wickedness, covetousness,

maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife,

deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,

Scriptures:

³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud,

Notes:

boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient

to parents,

Scriptures:

³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving,

Notes:

unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 ⁶² who, knowing the righteous judgment of

G1921 – recognizing.

G1345 -

Notes:

Everyone sins, and some of the things listed in those verses are things that even a believer might be guilty of doing. The difference is that a believer is going to feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit and will eventually repent. An unbeliever may feel guilty, but they are unwilling to humble themselves before God and repent.

△ God, that those who practice such things are

G4238 – (Verb, Present, Active) – perform.

‘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.

deserving of death, not only do the same but

G514 -

G2288 -

God loves every person He has ever created. He created all of us in His image and to be the objects of His love, grace, mercy, and peace. He created us to be with Him in intimate communion fellowship forever. What He asks of us is faith and obedience. Because we are made in God’s image, we have the ability to choose – we can choose to love God or reject Him. 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.

also approve of those who practice them.

G4909 – agree, give approval.

That then led to 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. In every election, you must choose between the lesser of two evils. We shouldn’t choose based on the candidate we like more or has the best vibe. And we should be very careful not to let the biased mainstream media influence how we vote. 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!

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 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.

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