

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## GOD'S WRATH REVEALED

*Romans 1:18-32*

### Remember...

*Romans 1:17-18*

- ❑ God revealed His righteousness in the gospel. This means that we can be right before a holy God through the gospel. This righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ from first to last.
- ❑ That is explained through a contrast with the wrath of God we read about in our passage.
- ❑ We read about God's wrath and it makes us appreciate His amazing love in the Cross.

### A Spiral Downward?

- ❑ Let me suggest the structure is not a list of sins that gets worse and worse as you progress.
- ❑ God is really addressing one single sin in people that has many different consequences throughout the text.

### Running Through the Same Material Until We Get It

Notice the emphasis and continued focus on the fact that people who reject the truth of God are getting the consequences for such action. Follow me as we work our way through this text.

#### The Wrath of God

- ❑ To be on the receiving end of the hatred or wrath of God is to experience eternal torment with absolutely no relief for all eternity. *Romans 9:13, Matthew 25:46*
- ❑ When our Lord Jesus Christ returns he returns as the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. He comes in wrath to destroy all who have not had God's wrath satisfied through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. *Revelation 19:11-21*
- ❑ Jesus Christ satisfied the wrath of God on behalf of all those he came to save. *Hebrews 10:11-18, 1 John 2:2*

#### God's Wrath is Deserved!

### There Are No Excuses

*Romans 1:18-20*

- ❑ Men suppress the truth about God by their sins. This means that they know the truth, but simply ignore it or purposely twist it into falsehood.
- ❑ God actually makes knowledge of Him clear or plain so that men cannot say they did not know. God has communicated knowledge about Himself.
- ❑ Since the creation of the world (in other words, before man was created) God's qualities have been seen. This means that God has communicated about Himself through creation. This is called general revelation. *Psalms 19:1-6*
- ❑ The content of this knowledge of God is not clear. It most likely refers to the truths that there is a God and He is all-powerful. *Romans 1:20*
- ❑ This revelation is not sufficient to save, it can only condemn. The dilemma of the one who has never heard the gospel is answered clearly by the Scriptures. All those God plans on saving will hear about the gospel and they will believe it and be saved. All those who never heard were not of the elect and did not want to be saved. *Romans 10:14-15*
- ❑ God even says this knowledge has been *understood*. Man knows about God and understands.
- ❑ There are NO EXCUSES for mankind.

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## Worshipping the Creature is a Bad Move

*Romans 1:21-23*

- ❑ They knew God but they failed to respond to this knowledge in the right ways.
  1. They did not glorify Him.
  2. They did not thank Him. Isn't this amazing that thankfulness is here right beside glorifying God?
- ❑ The assumption here is that this knowledge of God would naturally lead them to glorify Him and to give thanks. Their thinking was useless because it did not result in these two things.
- ❑ Rejecting this information about God is the ultimate foolishness. This is illustrated by the fact that man worships images that resemble created things rather than the one who deserves all worship. This is idolatry!

## Wrath is Letting Them Go Their Own Way

### Sexual Sins Abound

*Romans 1:24-27*

- ❑ Because they have committed this foolish act, rejecting the knowledge they had and worshipped created things, He gives them over to their own desire—more sin.
- ❑ We would view this as God lifting some of the restraint He had over their sin.
- ❑ Sexual sin is their desire and that is what they get.
- ❑ Then we have a restatement of what sin they have committed to receive this—exchanged the truth of God for a lie. *Verse 25*
- ❑ One of these sexual sins is homosexuality.

## Homosexuality

### OT Example of Homosexuality

*Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah*

In the Old Testament account of the saving of Lot from the destruction of Sodom we find the desire for unnatural sexual relations between men. Whether or not this was the express reason for the great wickedness of that city cannot be proved. *Genesis 19:5, 2 Peter 2:8*

### Mosaic Law on Homosexuality

*Leviticus 18:22, 20:13*

- ❑ Homosexuality is seen as violating the law of God and therefore sin in the Old Covenant era.
- ❑ Homosexuality is seen as a human behavior that is a perversion.

### Law of Christ on Homosexuality

- ❑ We who live in the New Covenant era are under the law of Christ. This is the law that we are obligated to obey. The breaking of this law is sin. *1 Corinthians 9:20-21*
- ❑ Homosexuality is breaking the law of Christ and therefore is sin in the New Covenant era. *Romans 1:26-27*
- ❑ It is not possible to be a believer and have a homosexual lifestyle. True believers will seek to turn from their sin. *1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 22:14-15*

### Is Homosexuality a Natural Bent?

The question as to whether homosexuality is something that folks are born with is an irrelevant question. Scripture clearly states that no one is put in a position where they have no choice but to sin. *1 Corinthians 10:13*

### What is the “due penalty”?

The “due penalty” would not seem to be “aids” but rather a further decline into their sin.

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## **A Sin, But Not Necessarily Worse Than Other Sins**

- ❑ As Christians, we must recognize the sinfulness of homosexuality. God is clear on this point and we must accept it. *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*
- ❑ On the other hand, that particular sin is not more evil than other sins we might struggle with.
- ❑ In this passage, that is one deviation from God's order that is expounded, but the point is not so that we might be able to look down on others for how bad they are.

## **Back to the Text**

### **But There Are Others**

*Romans 1:28-31*

- ❑ Their rejection of the knowledge of God also leads to general sinfulness that defines unbelievers. This is called a depraved mind.
- ❑ This is a laundry list of sins that get us all. Everyone can identify with at least one of these sins.
- ❑ Notice some of the interesting choices found in this list.
  1. Gossip
  2. God-haters
  3. Arrogance
  4. Disobey their parents

### **And Not Only That, But Also...**

*Romans 1:32*

The last thing that is mentioned here is the fact that mankind not only sins, but encourages others to sin as well. We like company in our sin.

## **Implications**

1. There are no innocent natives anywhere. Everyone is guilty before a holy God.
2. Idolatry is an awful sin that is incredibly foolish. We must watch for idolatry in our own lives. You may not think you worship something, but what do you love more than God?
3. If you reject what you do know, you will progress in your sin. You may even start to believe your own lies.
4. This passage describes *every* unbeliever.
5. Trusting science when it rejects the possibility of God is not wisdom!
6. Do you glorify God and give Him thanks? In other words, is your thinking useless or useful?