

**Title:** Rejecting the Truth and Glory of God

**Passage:** Romans 1: 18-23

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### Summary

Why is God's Anger Being Revealed?

- I. Because of the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
- II. Because humans suppress the truth
- III. Because it is plain or clear and without excuse
- IV. Because humans do not honor God nor give thanks to Him.
- V. Because humans became futile in their thinking.
- VI. Because humans became fools by worshiping creation and not the Creator.

### Application:

- If not a Christian, know that faith is a choice but so is unbelief.
- If a Christian, the main problem of those around us is a heart problem (not an intellectual one).

### Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How do people today suppress the truth about God?
- What are examples of how we may worship created things rather than the Creator?
- In what ways can you lessen your dependence on things you are tempted to "worship" and serve more than God?
- How can you glorify God and give thanks to Him this week?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

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## **EXPOSITION**

### **Passage:**

Romans 1:18-23

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

### **Context of Passage:**

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Why is it so special that righteousness from God may be received through faith?
  - Without God, we are under the wrath of God

- (Romans 1:18 through chapter 3)
- Under the dark backdrop of humanity, the bright jewel of the Gospel shines so bright.

***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness***

- The greatest threat to humanity is God's judgment (eternal death)
  - Contrast: today's culture domesticates God.
    - Always loving and only gently corrects
  - Truth: Law without consequences is no law at all. Justice without judgment is no justice at all.
    - God's holiness and justice demands judgment.

*Wrath of God*

- righteous, reasonable, and holy response to man's sinful, rebellious nature.
- Passionate expression against wrongdoing
  - Consistent with His love, kindness, and justice.
    - While also to be feared, it is controlled and measured and totally just.

**Question: WHY IS GOD'S ANGER BEING REVEALED?**

**A. BECAUSE OF THE UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN**  
***against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men***

- Ungodliness = disregard of God's character
- Unrighteousness = injustice, immorality, selfishness
- Compare:
  - Two greatest commandments:
    - Love God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength
    - Love neighbor as yourself.
- Ungodliness and unrighteousness is rebellion against both of those commandments.

**B. BECAUSE HUMAN'S SUPPRESS THE TRUTH**  
***who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.***

*Suppress*

- pressing the truth down, out of our mind.
  - Convincing ourselves that what is being done is right
- Why? What is being done is against our conscience.

*The Truth*

***For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.***

- made known by God.

What is the truth?

***For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature,***

- God's invisible attributes
  - Eternal power
  - Divine nature

*Types of Revelation*

#### 1. General revelation

- God reveals everyone everywhere through creation and our conscience
- This is enough to bring us to judgment but never enough to bring us salvation.

#### 2. Special revelation

- God reveals Himself in a special way through His Word and His Son.
- This is necessary to bring us to salvation.

*his eternal power*

- God's power easily seen through the power of storms
  - Book Reference: More than meets the eye (Richard Swenson)
    - <https://www.christianbook.com/more-than-meets-the-eye/richard-swenson/9781576830697/pd/30694>
  - Examples of God's power:
    - Tornados, hurricanes
    - Human body (complexity of the heart, lungs, DNA, etc.)
- Contrast: people attribute these to "Mother Nature"
  - But who created? Father God.
- Contrast: idea of evolution
  - But no proofs exist of how one kind goes to another kind (no fish-dog, cat-dog, etc.)
  - Assuming even life began at a "Big Bang" - where is the origin from other than time?

Psalms 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

*and divine nature*

What can see from creation?

- God is a great God.
  - One who is more powerful than any other being that ever existed
- God is one.
  - How can all the complex structures be controlled by multiple gods? (Compare: Hinduism)
- God is wise and knowledgeable
  - Only God could come up with the complexity and synergies of systems we see in creation (ex: bees)
- God is good and beautiful
  - The beauty of creation show His goodness

#### Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

#### General revelation

- enough to bring us to judgment before God.
  - Why? We know Someone must have created all It

#### **III. BECAUSE IT IS PLAIN TO THEM AND WITHOUT EXCUSE**

***have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.***

*Have been clearly perceived*

- what can be known about God's existence is clear through creation.

#### **IV. BECAUSE HUMAN BEINGS DO NOT HONOR HIM NOR GIVE THANKS.**

***For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, Honor***

- Meaning = worship = speaking well of other

*Or give thanks to him*

- Ingratitude to God for all His gifts and blessings.

#### James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- Question Are you thankful to God for all things?

## **V. BECAME FUTILE IN THEIR THINKING**

***but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools,***

### *Heart*

- All of a human being Including one's intellect and reasoning

### *Fool*

- one who denies what knows what is true
- One who does not honor God.

## **VI. BECAUSE THEY BECAME FOOLS BY WORSHIPPING CREATION AND NOT THE CREATOR**

***and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.***

- Progressive degeneration of man.

### *Psalms 115:4-8*

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

They have mouths, but do not speak;  
eyes, but do not see.

They have ears, but do not hear;  
noses, but do not smell.

They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk;  
and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.

## **APPLICATION**

### **I. If not a Christian, know that faith is a choice but so is unbelief.**

- Choosing not to believe is because you don't want to held accountable to God.
- Consider: Ask the hard questions of life.
  - What is the origin of life?
  - What is the purpose of life?
  - Where are you heading?
- If you are honestly seeking the truth, God will reveal it.

### **II. If a Christian, the main problem of those around us is a heart problem (not an intellectual one).**

- don't play defense. Let those who reject God prove to them what they believe.
  - They must give an account for their reasoning.
- Ask them:
  - How do you think you exist?
  - Why do you exist?
  - Where does evil come from?
  - Where does morality come from?
- Just stand. God doesn't need our defense.

### **III. Do you honor God and give thanks to Him for His creation regularly?**

- Does the world see us differently in how we live our lives?

**Next Passage: How is God's anger being revealed?**