

THE BAD NEWS
ROMANS 1:18-32
1/26/25

I. GOD'S WRATH

Romans 1:18a – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

A. Different from human wrath

II. THE REASON

Romans 1:18b-23 – "...who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

A. The suppression of truth

Romans 1:18a – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

1. The truth = who God is

B. Truth is revealed and disregarded

Romans 1:19-20 – "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ 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."

1. No one is innocent

C. Suppressed truth leads to Idolatry

Romans 1:21-23 – "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. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

1. Idolatry is the great exchange
 - a. God for idols
 - b. Truth for a lie
 - c. Natural for unnatural

III. THE RESULT

Romans 1:24-32 – “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature,²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

A. Judicial abandonment – “God gave them up”

1. God gives them what they want
2. Removes His restraining and protective hand

B. Symptoms of judicial abandonment

1. Impurity – Personal

Romans 1:24 – “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves...”

- a. Their lusts are for themselves

2. Dishonorable passions – Corporate

Romans 1:26 – “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature...”

- a. Homosexuality is a clear picture of the callous nature of sin
- b. It disregards God's truth in His word and nature

3. Debased mind – Universal

Romans 1:28 – “And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.”

- a. No regard for God
- b. Approval of evil

POINT: The Gospel is the power of God to save and declare sinners righteous who are otherwise deserving of God's wrath!

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why would people today find Romans 1:18-32 offensive? Should this material be avoided in our preaching and conversations? If not, then how should it be conveyed to the world?
3. How do people “suppress the truth of God” today? What do they do and what do they not do?
4. Paul talks about idolatry as a root sin in this passage. How does idolatry express itself in our culture today? How do we worship things other than God?
5. Why is it important for us to understand God’s wrath? Why is it easy for us to avoid talking about God’s wrath?
6. How does knowing “the bad news” make the good news of the Gospel so much better? How does this passage (v.18-32) relate to the previous passage (v.16-17)?
7. How does a passage like this help us understand the world around us? How should a passage like this inspire us to approach our world?
8. What is one thing from the message or the group discussion that you can live out this week?