

WHY THE WRATH OF GOD

ROMANS 1

Text: Romans 1:19

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Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Introduction:

The wrath of God is a proven fact. In fact the Bible doesn't seek to prove it, it is simply stated and understood to be true.

These verses state the 'why' for the wrath of God.

1. MANS REBELLION TOWARD GOD (VS 18)

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

A. The Nature of Man's Sin

Man is ungodly by nature and by choice. This means that he has no relationship with God. Because He has

no relationship with God, his relationship with his fellow man is also destroyed.

Romans 3:10

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:12

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

B. The Suppressing Nature of Man

Another sign of man's rebellion is the fact that he knows the truth about God. This will be revealed more clearly in a moment. Even though he knows the truth, he "holds", or "suppresses" the truth.

C. The Stubborn Nature of Man

Man willfully suppresses the truth of God so that he may continue in his sins! Beyond that, man stubbornly holds to his sins while he seeks to undermine the truth of God.

Ephes. 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now

worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

2. MAN'S REVELATION OF GOD (vs. 19-20)

Romans 1:19-20

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. [20] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

What is this truth that man suppresses? It is the very revelation of God Himself.

A. The Place of God's Revelation

Notice where Paul says that God is revealed - "in them". The idea is that men have all the truth they need to come to know God within themselves. The truth of God is in the heart and in the mind of mankind!

B. The Power of God's Revelation

The power of God's revelation of Himself lies in its scope! God has placed His truth all about us. The Bible backs this up.

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. [2] Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. [3] There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. [4] Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, [5] Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. [6] His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

God's revelation of Himself is so strong and so clear that every rational creature are bound to acknowledge and worship Him!

C. The Purpose of God's Revelation

The purpose is to force man to a moment of decision! God has given man every conceivable revelation of Himself and has left those who refuse to get right with God without any excuse for their continued state of sin!

3. MAN'S REJECTION OF GOD (VS. 21)

Romans 1:21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

A. A Reckless Choice

This rejection of God is seen in 2 areas of life.

1. They gave God no glory.
2. They gave God no gratitude.

B. The Resulting Conditions

Because they rejected the Lord and His truth, they were given over to wretched lives. Note what the rest of this verse says about their condition.

1. Hollow life

"Vain Imaginations" means a futile existence. They are living for themselves, or so they think, in reality, they are merely wasting their time. They fill their days with themselves, but eventually, those days will end and they will find that their time has been wasted and entirely in vain!

2. Horrible life

These verses say that when they turned their backs on the light of God's truth, "their foolish heart was darkened." What men seem not to understand is that the only alternative to Light is darkness! As they move farther away from the Light, they move farther into the dark!

4. MAN'S REACTION TO GOD (vs. 22-23)

Romans 1:22-23

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23] And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

A. He Reacts In Foolish Regression

When man turns on the Lord, and closes his eyes to the truth of God, he really thinks he is wise! In reality, God says that while they think they are so smart, they are nothing but fools!

B. He Reacts In False Religion

Man says "No!" to God, and then he turns around and invents things to worship!

Close:

These things are the reason for the “Wrath of God.”
God has plenty of reason to be filled with wrath!