

THE REASON FOR THE WRATH OF GOD

ROMANS 1:18-23

Text:

Introduction:

The wrath of God is a proven fact! In fact, the Bible doesn't seek to prove it; it is merely stated as being a reality. God is a God of love, but at the same time, He is a God of intense wrath! His wrath is revealed in the world today and will be experienced, in eternity, by every person who leaves this world without a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The answer to that question is found in these verses. God tells us in the clearest of words why His wrath is kindled against the children of this world.

As we look into this passage we'll notice 4 reasons for the wrath of God.

1. MAN'S REBELLION TOWARD GOD (VS. 18)

Romans 1:18

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 Sinful Nature of Man

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. Man is in open rebellion against the Lord and this is by his own choice!

Romans 3:10

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:12

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! Mankind is absolutely enslaved to his sin.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ 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

¹⁹ 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. You see, God has a strong desire to reveal Himself to men! God wants them to come to know about Him so that they will come to know Him personally. To do this, God manifests Himself to man in millions of ways every day.

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 them.

The truth of God is in the heart and in the mind of mankind!

Illustration:

As a very young girl, Helen Keller was stricken by a disease that left her blind, deaf and mute. A lady named Anne Sullivan worked tirelessly and selflessly to help Helen learn to communicate. Eventually, Helen learned to communicate through touch, and she even learned to talk! When Anne Sullivan tried to tell Helen Keller about God, the girl's response was that she already knew about Him - she just didn't know His name.

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 - Psa. 19:1-6.

Psalms 19:1-6

¹ 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 is bound to acknowledge and worship Him!

Illustration:

Notice the some areas where God's Person is on display.

- Think of the seed that becomes a mighty tree.
- Think of birds that are able to navigate by the stars.
- Think that most scientists now believe that this massive universe came into existence at a specific instance in time. Today among many major scientists evolution is debated and

doubted. Many now suspect that a higher intelligence had everything to do with it.

- Think that at any given instant there are over 1,800 storms in operation at any given time.
- Think that there are over 10 million species of insects in the world.
- Think that the earth is 25,000 miles in circumference, weighs tons and hangs on nothing! It spins at 1,000 miles per hour with absolute precision and careens through space around the sun at the speed of 1,000 miles per minute in a yearly orbit that is 580 billion miles long!

God did all these things to prove to man that He is real and that He possesses great power! No wonder that Bible declares:

Psalms 14:1

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.

Psalms 53:1

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is* none that doeth good.

C. The Purpose of God's Revelation

The purpose is to bring man to a point of decision! God's desire is that every person bow before Him in humble repentance and worship.

However, not all will! Therefore, God has given man every conceivable revelation of Himself and has left those who refuse to get right with Him without any excuse for their continued state of sin!

The universe is the Lord's courtroom. In it, He has proven conclusively that He exists.

Those who refuse to believe in Him have been faced with the evidence and are left with no excuse for their behavior.

They're guilty as charged and when they face Jesus at the Great White Throne, they will hear the charges read in clear terms.

Then they will all be forced to bow before Him and acknowledge Him as Lord of all!

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

Romans 1:21

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

When man has been faced with the truth of God and he makes his stand against God, he has moved into the realm of rejection. This rejection of God is seen in 2 areas of life.

1. They gave God no glory

That is, they refused to magnify and exalt God as God. Their primary goal was the glorification of self! Men fail to honor God when they refuse to give Him the place in their lives that He deserves.

God deserves the preeminence, but those who walk in unrighteousness and open rebellion against the Lord give Him no place in their lives.

Therefore, He is not glorified in them! As a result, He is filled with wrath at the foolishness and sinfulness of man!

2. They gave God no gratitude

While they denied God, they took all the things that He had given man to teach man about Himself and they used it for their own selfish gains without a single thought being given to the great Creator.

B. The Resulting Condition

1. A 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!

Thought:

What does it mean if a man accomplishes great things in this life and in the end goes to Hell? The answer is, it means that he has wasted his life and it would have been far better for him had he never been born in the first place! If he dies without Jesus, he has lost the only thing he genuinely possessed. He has lost his soul.

Mark 8:36-37

³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? ³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2. A horrible life

This verses says 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 further into the dark.

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

Romans 1:22-23

²² 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. Foolish Regression (22)

When man turns on the Lord, and closes his eyes to the truth of God, he really thinks he is wise! His perception of himself is that he has all the angels figured out and all the bases covered. In reality, God says that while they think they are so smart, they are nothing but fools!

B. False Religion (23)

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

Man is a religious creature.

If he doesn't worship God, he'll invent or manufacture a god to worship.

If that doesn't satisfy, he'll find another man to give his worship to.

If that doesn't satisfy, then he will set himself up as his own little god and will live his life only to worship and glorify himself.

Close:

These are the four reasons why God is angry with sinners!