

ROMANS – OUR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD
AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

GOD’S WRATH UPON MAN’S UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 1:18-32

October 1, 2015

I. God’s wrath is being revealed (18)

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

II. God revealed Himself to mankind (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.”

A. God’s truth is plain.

B. God’s truth is perceivable.

Psalm 19:1-4a

*“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.*

*³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.*

*⁴ Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.”*

C. God’s truth is knowable.

Romans 2:14-15

“(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)”

D. We must glorify and thank Him.

III. Mankind rejected this knowledge of God (21-25)

“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.

²⁴ 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.”

- A. Improper thinking about God led to improper thinking about the world.**
- B. Improper thinking about the world led to improper behavior in the world.**
- C. Now man cannot think properly about God, the world, or each other.**
- D. This alludes to Adam and the golden calf.**

IV. As a result, mankind spiraled into a perpetually increasing cycle of sin (26-32)

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.³² Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”

V. Remember, Paul’s gospel drove him to evangelism and missions. (1:14, 16)

¹⁴*“I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.”*

¹⁶*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”*

AMEN Discussion Questions – Romans 1:18-32

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1. How has God made His invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – known to you? Do people recognize His existence today because of this? Why not, according to Romans 1:18?
2. What did mankind fail to do in Romans 1:21? What were the results? How do we express thanks to God and glorify Him? When do we fail to do this?
3. When do we think sin makes us wise, when really it makes us fools? How does this relate to Adam’s fall in Genesis 3?
4. How did people in the ancient world “exchange the glory of the invisible God for images” (1:23)? How do people do this in the modern world?
5. What was God’s discipline of mankind in Romans 1:24? What does it mean for God to “give them over” to their sinful lusts? How is this discipline?

Going Deeper

1. How have you been tempted to exchange the truth about God for a contemporary lie?
2. “Improper thinking about God always leads to improper thinking about our world, and thus improper behavior in our world.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Support your position with your personal observations of people in this world. How has this pattern affected you?