

Romans 1:19~25

¹⁸For the *wrath of God* is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

According to Paul, all of mankind has a serious problem... We are under the wrath, the judgment of god. A very serious problem to say the least... A problem, that if not remedied, will ultimately not only kill us, but damn our souls to hell forever...

Drinking, Drugs, Adultery, Fornication, Homosexuality, lying, cheating, on and on... These are not the real problems, the real issues of men. These are simply the results, or the symptoms *of a much deeper problem*... If you're going to fix something, you first must diagnose what the problem is... If you don't know what the problem is...*you can't fix it*.

I'm around hospitals frequently, and what I see in a lot of cases, is merely a treating of the symptoms instead of the treating the problem! Whether it be a temperature, or pain, or ache, or whatever... Just recently we saw this truth in the life of our brother in the Lord Jim Spence... He was having severe headaches, and they were giving him pain medicine... But pushing them to look closer, they did a scan of his head, and found a couple of aneurisms... Life Threatening stuff... Now they are treating the aneurisms instead of the pain... much different approach!

I've seen in a lot of cases, they send you home with a prescription... I'm persuaded, that the Pharmaceutical companies are behind this somehow... Drugs have become "*Big business*..."

The statement of the "Natural Cures" man... Why do drug companies advertise their product? He stated, they sell you the drug... That way, when you visit the doctor, you tell him what you need!

It's gotten to the point in our society... that when you have a problem, irregardless of what it is, there is a pill for it. All you need to do, is to take a pill. And we wonder, why there is such a drug problem among our children! I will agree to some extent, that a certain medicine might be beneficial in helping ease a pain we might be having...

But the question I want to know... **Why am I having this pain? What is causing this pain?**

Q: Why do men sin? I just want to say... that this world, and all the doctors and psychologist in it, do not have what it takes to "*fix the problem*." All they can do, is put a band aid on it, treating the symptoms!

Listen, we must get to the "*root of the problem*", because if we don't... **man will die in his sin!**

Read 1:18~2:16... The "*Judgment of God*..."

The overwhelming theme of the first part of Paul's letter to the Romans, is the *certain* Judgment of God that is pending towards the *unrighteousness & ungodliness* of man...

Paul gives the first part of his letter, alluding to three things:

The "*Source*" of mans sin... The "*Depths*" of mans sin... The "*End Result*" of mans sin...

You don't need me to tell you, of the "*Depths*" of mans sin... You need but look around. I can't begin to describe the perversion that is taking place... I find it interesting, that in talking about man's sinfulness... the only illustration he uses, the only physical act he describes, is that of *homosexuality*...

Why does he do that? He's just picking on them, right? No...it speaks to the “*Depths*”, or the “*Limits*” of mans sin... Look what Paul says in verse 26... ²⁶*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

There are certain things that you tend to expect... Even though you disagree with it, even though its wrong, its not uncommon. Sadly people are involved in a particular sin. But Paul uses *homosexuality* as his “*One Illustration*” of the sin of mankind, and he does so, because it speaks of the depths of mans sin. It goes beyond what you might expect, beyond the norm... That man has gone outside the envelope of what you might expect...

I will be dealing with this subject next Sunday morning, Lord willing... It's a subject that needs to be addressed! There is much confusion and misunderstanding in society today, and even in the church.

In saying that, I want to be clear... A *homosexual* is no different than a *heterosexual* when it comes to salvation... All sin, regardless of what it is, brings upon a person, the Judgment of God! You may not be guilty of this particular sin, but you are definitely somewhere in the mix recorded in verses 29~31... And by know means, is that an exhaustive list... The point is, that man is filled with unrighteousness! There is nothing good in the flesh!

Paul is very clear...*the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness*;

Having stated the “*Fact*” that men will be “Held Accountable” for their sin...the first thing Paul wants to address, is the “*Source*” of mans sin...

Paul is quick to point out the fact, that... **Mans sin is NOT a product of Ignorance!**

“*He KNOWS Better...*” Paul wants to quickly remove the “*Excuses*” of men...

(Vs 19~20) Paul says that to claim “*ignorance*” is no excuse! Because God has “*Showed*” them... God has made it “*Clear*” to every person, through His creation!

Its no wonder why this is Paul's first point, for this is the “*instinctive nature*” of mankind! Man always has an excuse for his wrong... Instead of simply saying, “I am guilty, and I'm sorry”, something in man, always wants to place the blame on something or someone else!

(Genesis 3) It has been that way since the beginning... God asked Adam a simple question...

Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou should not eat?

¹²*And the man said, The woman whom thou gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

¹³*And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

Both pointed the blame instead of simply answering... YES, I did...forgive me.

Just a note... They each received the “*Judgment*” of God on their sin... They may have placed the blame on someone or something else...but they were “*without excuse!*” They knew better, God had told them...



So, here in Romans, Paul makes it abundantly clear...

No one can “*Justify*” their *Unrighteousness & Ungodliness as Ignorance!*

“*They Know Better...*” the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

They have “*Suppressed it*”... It means to “*Put down*”, to “*Put aside*”, to “*Render void...*”

Bottom line... You know its wrong...but at the same time, *it feels* so right!
There’s this *longing* within you, to do, what you know you shouldn’t do!

Here in is the best definition of sin...

It Is to “suppress” or “set aside” the truth of God, in order to carry out ones own desires!

God showed me an interesting truth in this passage...Man’s sin, is in no way a result of ignorance to what’s right and wrong...for God has shown him, *he knows better*. He can’t use that for an excuse...

But not only does he “*Know Better*”, but man’s sin is a result that he thinks he “*Knows Better*”

(Vs 21~22) Paul gives the “*True Source*” of mans sin...

²¹Because 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. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...

Paul says, that man’s unrighteousness, is merely a manifestation that man “thinks” he knows better than God.

You may say, I would never say that... But if you disregard what God says, to follow your own will, that’s exactly what you are doing! Calling His truth a lie!

★ Its difficult to say... I have faith in God,... and yet not do what He says...would it not?
To “**Not Do**” what God says...is to clearly show a lack of trust!

★ It’s the “*Willful*” rejection of God’s revealed Truth, to follow your hearts desire!
Paul says... “*You know there’s a God... It’s obvious...*”
Paul says... “*You know the difference between right and wrong...*”

The truth is, you made a clear, conscience, deliberate, and blatant choice to disregard God & his truth, to carry out your own desires...

(Vs 25) ²⁵*Who changed the truth of God into a lie...*

Its better translated... “**Who have “Exchanged” the truth of God for a lie!**”

Paul states, that in life we are faced with choices every day... And when it comes to “Right & Wrong”, that deep down, we know what’s right! But because of our cold, hard hearts, we reject the counsel of God, and follow our own counsel! The man believes that he is wiser than God...manifesting it, by rejecting the truth of God, and doing his own thing!

Mt. 7... The two houses... ²⁶*And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:* ²⁷*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

A man who rejects the counsel of God **is a fool!**

(Vs 21b~23); but became *vain in their imaginations*, and *their foolish heart was darkened*.²² *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools*,²³ *And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.*

Paul states, that as a result of “*rejection Gods truth*”, mans heart is darkened! Which is simply a result of the removal of the “Light” of God’s truth! Now that they have rejected the truth of God, they don’t “see themselves” as that sinful... (John 3:19~21) They hate the light, and avoid the light...deeds evil...

In verse 23, Paul affirms the fact, that even though they have rejected the “truth of God...” they are not without “Religion!” That out of their “Foolish, darkened, sinful heart...” **they still worship God**. Problem is, they have changed the image... Its not the true living God, it’s a God of their own empty dark imagination! A God that is ok with their sin, a God that allows for the lifestyle of their choosing...

Bottom line, they may be religious, and claim to worship God...But its not the true and living God! They worship SELF! Self is on the throne... *If any man come to me, let him deny himself...*

Paul reminds us in this passage, not once, but three times...

That such a man, who insist on living life his way... *God will allow him to do so...*

²⁴Wherefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts,

²⁶For this cause **God gave them up** unto vile affections:

²⁸And as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over** to a reprobate mind,

There’s a progression there...

Verse 24 speaks to the *desires of their heart...*

Verse 26 speaks to the *carrying out of those desires...*

Verse 28 speaks to their insistence for *God to leave them alone...*

It reminds me, that there comes a point, in which God says ok... Live how you please...

²⁸*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,*

You want to live your live how you please... have at it!

You want me to leave you alone...OK!

You reject me...I’ll reject you!

If you leave here, and still refuse to believe the gospel... That’s your right. That’s a choice that only you can make. But I just want you to know, that unless you repent, and turn from your ways... You’ll die under the wrath of God....

The “gospel” testifies that there’s a wicked nature, a wicked creature inside of us...that our heart is utterly depraved! The gospel message is one of “Repentance!” Which means “To Turn...” It’s a call for us to abandon our foolish desires, our own will and ways, and put our faith in Christ Jesus. Manifesting “our belief” by our works... If we “believe” God, we’ll manifest it by our obedience...

²⁵*Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is **blessed** for ever. Amen.*

ψοο-λογ-αψ-τοσθ *adorable*:—blessed.