

“What in the World is Wrong?”

Part 2

Romans 1:16-32

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans 1 we started looking at man's need of righteousness. We are all sinners who have sinned against a HOLY and a RIGHTEOUS God and He demands that all sin must be paid for. We have no ability to pay for our sin, so God sent His Son to the cross to die for our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Paul tells us that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Notice Romans 1:16-17

When we believe the Gospel, we are then forgiven. This forgiveness was first offered to the Jews who crucified Jesus, and this is to let us know that salvation is available to all. When we do believe in the finished work of Jesus we are JUSTIFIED. It is then that the righteousness of God is imputed to the believer. It is at this point that God declares the sinner RIGHTEOUS.

Romans 3:19-22

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

This now brings us to where we stopped last week. All of this will reveal what is happening today.

I. God's Wrath Part 2

Notice Romans 1:18

God's WRATH is currently being revealed upon all who suppress the Truth given to them. What is the Truth that they are suppressing?

Notice Romans 1:19-20

God has revealed Himself to every person in this world. He has written two books. The one is a picture book that every person reads every day, and it is filled with pictures of the majestic power of God as we view creation. The second Book is the Bible, and the Bible reveals the Holiness and the Righteousness of the Creator. The end of verse 20 tells us that all are without excuse. That means even the heathen in the jungle who never heard the Gospel. He knows that God exists because creation tells him so. If he responds properly to the picture book, then God will make a way for him to have the Written Book/The Bible. The man who has only the first book learns much about God through creation:

1. He is A God of order. The laws of nature show this.
2. He is an Artist. Sunrise and sunset.
3. He is a God of great power. Storms
4. He is a God of goodness. He sends rain and causes food to grow.
5. He is a God of great intelligence as seen in the complexity of all living creatures.
6. He is a God of wisdom. The sun is just the right distance away from the earth.
7. He is a God that is Faithful. The sun rises and sets every day.

It is when man chooses to suppress this Truth that God has given him that he then begins to sink deeper into the spiritual darkness.

Notice Romans 1:21

They knew God because He is revealed in creation, but they did not glorify Him as God, and neither were they thankful for what He has done. They then become vain in their imaginations and their hearts become darkened. The light that they were given was pushed out and they were left with nothing but darkness.

This verse clearly shows the opposite of evolution. Man is not getting better he is on the decline. He started with the knowledge of God, and he suppressed that knowledge and has now slipped deeper into spiritual darkness. Adam started with the knowledge of God as did Noah and man has been steadily declining from there.

Notice Romans 1:22

The person who denies that God exists then becomes a fool.

Psalm 14:1-3

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.

² *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*

³ *They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

These are people who believe they are wise, and they do their best to explain God away. They deny Him and His mighty work. They credit His work to evolution. They are fools in God's eyes.

Notice Romans 1:23

The word "changed" means "exchanged." These people had the true knowledge of God, but they exchanged it for CREATURE WORSHIP. Let me share a few verses concerning Israel.

Psalm 106:19-21

¹⁹ *They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.*

²⁰ *Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.*

²¹ *They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;*

Israel exchanged the glory of God for an idol. This is the very thing that Paul is saying in Romans 1:23.

Jeremiah 2:11

¹¹ *Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.*

So, what Paul is saying is that man has turned from God to idols. Notice what happened to the Jews which is a mirror image of what is happening today and it is very alarming.

Hosea 4:1-3

Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

² *By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.*

³ *Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.*

Now, when man turns from God to idols there is far more that happens and we see it today.

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

¹⁹ *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

²⁰ *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

Here we see that demons attach themselves to idols. So, when people turn to idol worship, they open the door for demonic influence and demonic possession. This is something that we are seeing in our world today. There is an ever-increasing presence of demonic activity. The half time show of the Super Bowl was all demonic. None of this activity is hidden anymore but it is practiced in the open and it is applauded and accepted by the majority. They have no idea what they are doing. They are creating openings into the demonic realm. That is not all.

II. Restraints Removed

Notice Romans 1:24-25

Here is the first of three statements where we were told that God gave them up. They wanted to live in sin and because they suppressed His Truth, He gave them over which means God lifted the restraints from man and in his depravity, man plunged deeper into spiritual darkness. God gave them over here to open sexuality, to fornication and adultery. We see in the next verses that it goes even deeper.

Notice Romans 1:26-27

Now man sinks from open sexuality to homosexuality. The manifestation of God lifting the moral restraints from man is the sin of homosexuality and man reaping the consequences through his practice of the sin. This takes in the diseases that are associated with the sin but it goes even further.

1 Corinthians 6:18

¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

As man suppresses the Truth, he sinks lower and lower in his sin. He goes into what is a downward spiritual spiral.

Jonah 1:1-5

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Those who turn from the LIGHT get what I would call **Spiritual Spatial Disorientation**. This means the person is in a spiritual freefall and does not even realize what is happening. **This is exactly what is happening in our world today. It goes even further.**

Notice Romans 1:28

They cast God out so God gave them over to a cast out mind. He gave them over to the darkness that has filled their minds.

Notice Romans 1:29-31

This is the worst description of mankind found anywhere in the Bible. It is a close look into the depraved heart of man.

FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS -- a general word which involves any kind of wrong thinking, speaking, acting or living.

FILLED WITH ALL FORNICATION -- This word is missing from some of the Greek manuscripts, and this is why it is not found in some translations. We get our word "pornography" from this Greek word. It is a general word for any kind of illicit sex.

FILLED WITH ALL WICKEDNESS -- wickedness, evil, those who delight in doing what is wrong.

FILLED WITH ALL COVETOUSNESS -- literally, "to have more", the craving to have more and more and more. The opposite of covetousness is contentment and satisfaction. Thus it refers to people who are not satisfied with what they have (greedy people).

FILLED WITH ALL MALICIOUSNESS -- wickedness, depravity, badness in general.

FULL OF ENVY -- Jealousy (over what someone else has)

FULL OF MURDER - Just what it says.

FULL OF DEBATE -- strife, arguments, fightings, a quarrelsome disposition

FULL OF DECEIT -- a person who tricks and deceives.

FULL OF MALIGNITY -- evil disposition, bad manners or character, someone who makes the worst out of the best.

WHISPERERS -- secretly whispering about others, slandering others, spreading gossip, rumors.

BACKBITERS -- the Greek word literally means "to speak against", to say mean or evil things about someone who is not there (if he were there you would never say it), open slander, false charges, false accusations.

HATERS OF GOD -- God-haters, as evidenced even by the way they use God's Name.

DESPITEFUL -- violent, one who brings harm or injury to someone (1 Tim. 1:13).

PROUD -- arrogant, literally "to appear above others, showing oneself above others".

BOASTERS -- those who boast.

INVENTORS OF EVIL THINGS -- they devise and contrive and plan what evil thing they can do next.

DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS -- this may seem out of place in such a list, yet it shows us how serious a thing this is to God.

WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING -- Void of understanding (stupid because they are unwilling to listen to God), foolish, spiritually blind.

COVENANT BREAKERS -- they do not keep their word.

WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION -- unloving, heartless, lacking that natural love which parents should have for children, brothers for sisters.

IMPLACABLE -- unforgiving

UNMERCIFUL -- showing no mercy, ruthless, cruel.

Conclusion:

Notice Romans 1:32

These people know this is all wrong, but they find pleasure in doing it and seeing others practice the same.

What is wrong today?

1. Demonic influence.
2. God has lifted the moral restraints.