

# ROMANS 1:18-32

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- **INTRODUCTION... vs. 1-7**
  - Paul introduced himself - a bondservant of Jesus Christ -and Apostle of Jesus Christ...
  - Paul established who Jesus is - the Jesus of the Bible is fully man and fully God...
  - Paul greeted the Roman church - called to be saints - so they have GRACE and PEACE!
- **1<sup>ST</sup> - NOT ASHAMED... vs. 16-17**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - The Gospel... vs. 16
    - Power of salvation...
      - I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
      - For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes!
      - Paul was NOT shy - he was NOT afraid to talk about the GOOD news [Gospel]
      - Because the GOSPEL has the POWER [δύναμις] to SAVE anyone who has FAITH!
      - Often we do not share the Gospel because we think we lack the right words...
      - Or we think that our lifestyle – actions – do NOT line up with our message...
      - But it is NOT our words or actions that bring people to Jesus Christ...
      - The power of salvation – is the MESSAGE – the simple truth of the GOSPEL...
      - Jesus came as a man – lived a perfect life – died for our sins – and rose again!
    - Jews First...
      - For the Jew first and also for the Greek!
      - This does NOT mean that God prefers Jews over Gentiles...
      - But God had promised the Messiah would come through Israel - **Genesis 22:18**
      - Therefore the GOSPEL was first heard by the Jews...
      - But it was NEVER meant to stop there - it is for the whole world - **John 3:16**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - By Faith...
    - Righteousness...
      - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith!
      - The Gospel is so important because it is ONLY way to be right with God...
      - We CANNOT be good enough - or EARN our way into heaven...
      - The Gospel shows us the ONLY way to be saved is by FAITH in Jesus!
      - **Ephesians 2:8** - "For by grace you have been saved through faith - and that not of yourselves - it is the gift of God."
    - Old Testament...
      - As it is written: The just shall live by faith!
      - The TRUTH that we are SAVED by faith is NOT something new...
      - It has ALWAYS been the ONLY way to get to HEAVEN...
      - Even the PROPHET Habakkuk said the same thing - **Habakkuk 2:4**
      - Those who are JUST [forgiven] - are those who life by faith!
      - If the ONLY way to be forgiven - the ONLY way to get to heaven is through Jesus...
      - Then what happens to those who do NOT know about the Gospel!
- **2<sup>ND</sup> – NO EXCUSE... vs. 18-21**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Wrath of God... vs. 18
    - Wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
    - Those who are UNGODLY - they REJECT the way of the Lord...

- Because they REJECT the Lord - they are UNRIGHTEOUS - they are NOT forgiven of their sins...
  - And because their sins are NOT forgiven – they will experience the wrath of God!
  - Everyone will have to stand one day before Jesus – either in GRACE or WRATH...
  - GRACE - means we have received the GOSPEL and been FORGIVEN...
  - WRATH – means we have rejected the GOSPEL and will be JUDGED...
  - SINCE we know there are ONLY two ways the story ends – we need to warn EVERYONE!
  - **II Corinthians 5:11** – “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord - we persuade men.”
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – God exists... vs. 18-20
- Hiding the Truth... vs. 18-19
    - Who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
    - Because what may be known of God is manifest in them - for God has shown it to them!
    - No one needs to tell us there is a God – we already know...
    - God has written the knowledge of Himself on our conscience - **Ecclesiastes 3:11**
    - We do not have to tell a child there is a God – they already know...
    - But an adult has to be indoctrinated in school for years to convince them there is not!
  - Creation... vs. 20
    - Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen.
    - Being understood by the things that are made - even His eternal power and Godhead.
    - So that they are without excuse!
    - God has revealed Himself to us through His creation...
    - Even his ETERNAL power - and the TRIUNE nature [the Godhead]
    - When we look up at the stars at night – when we see a picturesque sunset...
    - In our hearts we know – it is not an accident – there is a God who created this!
    - Men know God is there – NO one can claim they are ignorant...
    - No one will be able to before God and have the excuse they never knew!
    - **Psalm 19:1** – “The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his... craftsmanship.”
  - Everywhere...
    - We might ask – since Jesus is the only way to heaven – **I Timothy 2:5**
    - How can someone call on the name of Jesus if they have never heard of Him...
    - But Jesus is NOT hard to find – the Gospel message is everywhere!
    - The problem is people have a half hearted attitude when it comes to salvation...
    - It seems that church is on the bottom of the list of priorities for most people...
    - We are careful NOT to miss a day of school - how about a Bible study!
  - Finding Jesus...
    - If someone is looking for God – they WILL find Jesus!
    - God sent Philip into the desert to share with the Ethiopian – **Acts 8:26**
    - God sent and Angel - and then Peter to share with Cornelius – **Acts 10:3**
    - So its not a matter of not being able to find Jesus – people just are not looking!
    - **Jeremiah 29:13** – “You will seek and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hiding the Truth... vs. 21
- Although they knew God - they did not glorify Him as God - nor were thankful!
  - Even though men KNOW God exists – they do NOT worship Him or thank Him...
  - They give NO credit to God for His amazing creation – are NOT thankful for their life...
  - Instead they hide - and deny what they KNOW - because of their SIN!
  - Suppose CHEATED on a test – and another student saw you do it...
  - Then the next day you saw them – you would feel extremely embarrassed...
  - Unless you CONFESSED – you would likely try and avoid them!

- That is what happens to those who do NOT come to God in repentance...
- God sees their sin – therefore they are extremely embarrassed to be around Him...
- They try and avoid Him – some even try and DENY God exists...
- Because by denying God – they can fool themselves into denying their sin!
  
- **3<sup>RD</sup> - THE CONSEQUENCES... vs. 21-32**
  - 1<sup>ST</sup> - Perverse spirit... vs. 21-23
    - Becoming a fool...
      - But became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened.
      - Professing to be wise - they became fools.
      - And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man.
      - And birds and four-footed animals and creeping things!
      - When men reject God - their thoughts become foolish – their hearts darkened...
      - In Biblical times that meant - rather than worshiping the God who created them...
      - Men worshiped things they had created - idols of animals and beasts...
      - How foolish to think something you created – created you!
    - Evolution...
      - We think we are far wiser than that today...
      - Yet today the smartest - most educated men in the world – believe in EVOLUTION...
      - There are only TWO possibilities for the origin of life – DESIGN or ACCIDENT...
      - Because they choose to DENY their creator – they instead believe life is all an ACCIDENT!
      - I wear a watch on my wrist so I can tell the time – it is relatively simple device...
      - But suppose I tried to convince you it was the result of an accident...
      - I threw up some gears up in the air – and they fell down as a working watch – foolish!
      - **How much more foolish to think we are an accident – deny the God who created us!**
      - **Psalms 14:1** – “The fool has said in his heart - there is no God.”
    - Claiming to be wise...
      - These FOOLS [μωροί] claim to be the WISE [σοφοί] men...
      - The common convention today is – if you want to be WISE then go to college...
      - Yet more often than not today – universities are turning out FOOLS!
      - Because they are not teaching the Bible - about the consequences of sin...
      - Instead the students are told there is NO right or wrong - it is all RELATIVE...
      - There is NO sin - as long as you think it is OK - it is GOOD!
      - **Judges 21:25** - “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
      - **Do not mistake knowledge for WISDOM – universities might give LOTS of knowledge...**
      - **But the knowledge of men – if we listen – can BLIND us to our need for Jesus...**
      - **That is NOT wisdom – that is FOOLISHNESS – because it keeps us from God!**
    - Rejected...
      - As a result of people rejecting God – God rejects them...
      - God does NOT force anyone to love Him – he gives men the choice!
      - If I had asked Jen to marry me – with a gun in hand – it would not have been love!
      - **Love requires a choice – and God loves us enough to let us choose...**
      - **But if we choose NOT to love God – we are in danger of eternal death....**
      - **But there are also direct consequences to rejecting God – both physically and mentally!**
  - 2<sup>ND</sup> - Perverse body... vs. 24 / 26-27
    - Unclean hearts... vs. 24
      - Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness in the lusts of their hearts.
      - To dishonor their bodies among themselves!

- Those who reject God – will follow their LUSTS – and dishonor their bodies...
- Without God in their lives to guide them – they are left to figure things out on their own...
- God created us with a very obvious – design for marriage [one man one woman]
- But LUST can lead people to reject His design – give them over to the unnatural...
- A perversion of the sexual desires – unnatural relationships!
- Homosexually... vs. 26-27
  - For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.
  - For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.
  - Likewise also the men leaving the natural use of the woman.
  - Burned in their lust for one another - men with men committing what is shameful!
  - Women having sexual relations with women - men burning in their desire for men...
  - Homosexuality is a result of people following LUST – without God to correct them!
  - A knew a man in college – he was caught up in pornography – at first just women...
  - Over time the picture could not satisfy his lust – and it perverted into pictures of men!
  - We are pressured today to accept homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle...
  - There are even some churches that are ordaining homosexual pastors...
  - There are those who try to argue people are born that way [no scientific evidence]
  - Yet God makes it VERY clear that it is a WRONG - and it is sin...
  - Homosexuality – according to the OT - is a sin punishable by death – **Leviticus 18:22**
  - It is the physical result of a heart that has REJECTED the knowledge of God...
  - We are NOT to conform - we are NOT to condone sin - through we LOVE the sinner!
- The price... vs. 27
  - Receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due!
  - Homosexuality comes with a price – the PENALTY which is due...
  - The penalty is emotional – for those who reject God – and turn to homosexuality!
  - Unlike the contentment and fulfillment that comes from a marriage relationship...
  - Homosexuals burn with lust – and are NEVER satisfied – NEVER content...
  - Because that is NOT how God has designed intimacy to work!
  - The penalty is physical - very apparent today – with STDs...
  - Often incurable – sometimes lethal – STDs runs rampant in the Homosexual community...
  - All because they rejected the knowledge of God!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - Perverse mind... vs. 28-32
  - Filled with evil... vs. 28
    - Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.
    - God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things which are not fitting!
    - Because they refused to acknowledge God – God gave them over to a wicked MIND...
    - Since they chose NOT to fill their lives with the knowledge of God...
    - The void that should have been for God – is FILLED with wickedness...
    - They become filled with evil [perfect] – completely filled to the very top!
  - 23 examples... vs. 29-31
    - Being filled with:
    - Paul gives us a list of 23 things that define the MIND of the God rejecting man...
    - The list is NOT exhaustive – it represents what happens to a mind without God...
    - UNRIGHTEOUSNESS – anything contrary to what is RIGHT...
    - SEXUAL immortality [πορνεία] – any sexual act or thought outside of marriage...
    - WICKEDNESS – a desire to do evil – to do things we know are wrong...
    - GREED – always wanting more – no matter what they have it is not enough...
    - MALICIOUSNESS – the desire to hurt others – either by words or by actions...

- Full of ENVY – desiring things – denying God has given them what we need...
- Full of MURDER – hating so one so much they wished someone was dead – **Matthew 5:22**
- Full of ARGUMENTS – argue for the sake of arguing – being difficult...
- Full of DECEPTION – lying - cheating - stealing to get what they want...
- EVIL minded – having a bad character – rotten to the core...
- GOSSIP – whispering in the ear [gossip] – tearing down one another...
- BACKSTABBERS – speaking evil of one another when they are not around...
- HATE God – because they do not want to be accountable for their sin...
- VIOLENT – verbally – hurling verbal insults at others – mocking...
- PROUD [arrogant] - thinking they are better than others...
- BOASTERS – bragging about who they are - what they have done [exaggerating]
- INVENTORS of evil things – come up with NEW ways to sin...
- DISOBEDIENT to parents – they do not obey their parents [rebellious]
- REFUSE to understand – they are unwilling to admit the foolishness of their lives...
- BREAK promises – they do NOT keep their word...
- UNLOVING [ἄσποργος] – they do NOT care about their family...
- UNFORGIVING – they will NOT let go of the past – they hold on to their hurts...
- UNMERCIFUL – unwilling to help others who are in need – no mercy!
- Our mind is going to be FULL of something – and if we do NOT choose to fill it with God...
- Then it is going to fill up with EVIL and filth of this world...
- NOT that we wake up one morning and plan to dive headlong into sin...
- It is a gradual slide into more and more sin – as farther and farther we get from God!
- Encouraging... vs. 32
  - Knowing the righteous judgment of God.
  - That those who practice such things are deserving of death.
  - Not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them!
  - People know the God will JUDGE them – that the penalty is DEATH [hell]
  - Yet not only to they keep doing them - they ENCOURAGE others to sin as well!
  - It is not enough that they are going to be judged – they drag others down with them...
  - They want you to join into their wicked ways – so they are not convicted...
  - Because if you are following Jesus – it reminds them of their sin!
  - The images of the half-naked girls on the cell phone...
  - The videos on social media with people doing things we know are WRONG...
  - The MOVIES with content that is questionable – because although we may not be doing it...
  - By NOT standing up against these things – we are in fact supporting them!