



Romans 1:18-21
Hearts of Darkness

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

19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For 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,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The wrath of God is not something people fear these days, they love themselves and cannot believe that God feels anything but unconditional, and even unreasonable, love towards them. It's sometimes odd to see the logical disconnect involved in this at times. People explode into fury because they hear of someone abusing a puppy or a kitten, as was the case with the recent scandal in which a teenage girl in Bosnia threw a litter of puppies into a raging river. Even though they feel burning anger towards what they consider to be wickedness, and loudly demand JUSTICE, they never stop to consider that if they, sinful and imperfect creatures that they are, feel such burning anger at sight of evil, what must a perfectly just and absolutely holy God feel at seeing their own wickedness taking place before Him, not just once on Youtube, but every day of their lives. They never consider that it would be a *righteous thing* for his wrath to burn against their ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Stop and consider - if you feel that way about the wanton destruction of a litter of puppies, how much more indignation and wrath do you think God feels at the destruction of infants, created in His image, in the womb. And yet that goes on day after day in this country to tune of 50 million lives destroyed since 1973.

His wrath, Paul says, burns intensely first against our ungodliness, that is our impiety and refusal to acknowledge and serve him as savior. Instead of owning that He is God we rebel against Him, declare that He is our enemy and give our love to other things. One of the things that we see here is that men are NOT by nature ATHEISTS, since the fall they are by nature ANTI-THEISTS. So when the British Novelist Kingsley Amis was asked by Russian author Yevgeni Yevtushenko "You an atheist?" He answered truthfully when he said, "It's more than that. You see, I hate him!"

But it isn't just our rebellion our Anti-theism that provokes His wrath it is also, the unrighteousness that results from it. We reject God, our Creator, and our relationship to His creation including our fellow men becomes deranged. We break his commandments by sinning every day. Our ungodliness breeds unrighteousness. We become "sons of disobedience" and so by rebelling against God and

declaring our allegiance to the devil, what Christ said to the Pharisees becomes true of all men “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”

“But that isn’t fair”, someone might say, “how can people who don’t know there is a God or that they are breaking His laws be responsible for what they do?” Ah, but Paul tells us what that Kingsley Amis quote gives away, we know there is a God, and furthermore, our conscience, fallen and corrupt though it has become, tells us when we are breaking His commandments. It isn’t that men don’t know, it is that they SUPPRESS the knowledge they have, they *katacain or press down* the knowledge of God, the word there summons up this image of Spring that we must be brute force press down every day lest it pop up.

This knowledge that men suppress is clear and obvious, God has shown it to us. We may not be able to see the glory of the invisible Godhead, but we certainly can see the evidence for God all about us in the universe. This is what is sometimes called God’s “natural revelation” we see it spoken of in verses like Psalm 19:1-3:

Psalm 19:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.

We look at the Stars and planets in the heavens at night, and it as though “made by God” was written in the night sky. In fact the more that we examine the universe the more that we are forced to come to the conclusion that there is a glorious and powerful God who made and sustains everything. In fact, the more we study, the more obvious that becomes, but we cannot allow that conclusion to stand so in order to aid in our suppression of the truth we adopt a theory of crass materialism and DEMAND that whatever theories scientists come up with to explain the way things are that they NOT include the possibility of God, this means that the physical and life sciences today are ruled by an overarching **A.B.G.** theory that dominates ALL our study – ANYTHING BUT GOD.

Let me give you a couple more obvious examples:

The parameters or laws of the universe are so finely tuned for life, that adjusting any of them just a hairs-breadth would make life impossible, and the idea that they could have come about the way they have even using time and chance is impossible. Even if we assume that the universe is 15 Billion years old (which I do not believe) as scientists speculate, that isn’t enough time. So they have to come up with another theory, namely that we live in only one of many perhaps and infinite number of universes. The anti-theistic scientist sees the fine tuning and has to explain it away, so he creates an explanation that he has literally NO EVIDENCE for, the idea of multiverses. Oh there are plenty of universes without the fine tuning that don’t support life, it has to be, because the obvious explanation, that the Universe was designed and created and finely tuned, simply cannot be accepted. Thus we must fall back to an *Anything But God (ABG) theory* - NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS THAT THEORY IS BY COMPARISON.

Darwin, of course, refined the granddaddy of all ABG theories - natural selection - to explain the diversity of living things, but when he was doing his work back in the 19th century scientists had no idea how complicated cells actually were. Now we know them to be wonderful little finely tuned engines, each one containing in its DNA more information than all the libraries on earth. That DNA

tells Amino Acids, the building blocks of life, how to assemble, but here natural selection runs into a problem - where did the information come from, and how did the first cells occur? In other words how did AMINO ACIDS know how to assemble to form a cell before the DNA and the information existed to tell them? Where in fact did these Amino Acids come from? How did life spontaneously come about?

The idea that life spontaneously came about from non-life, is so absolutely remote that Fred Hoyle, the games theorist and statistician compared the chances this way:

"A junkyard contains all the bits and pieces of a Boeing 747, dismembered and in disarray. A whirlwind happens to blow through the yard. What is the chance that after its passage a fully assembled 747, ready to fly, will be found standing there? So small as to be negligible, even if a tornado were to blow through enough junkyards to fill the whole Universe."

Scientists, like Richard Dawkins deal with the problem of life coming from non-life, the creation of information in DNA, by suggesting that ALIENS SEEDED THE EARTH, this **ABG** theory to them is more attractive than what nature itself tells us. But even with this ridiculous theory, we are just pushing the issue back a little, not solving it, because the question who made those earth-seeding little green men immediately arises? No doubt there is an answer for that being worked on, and you can be sure it will be ANYTHING BUT GOD compliant.

Could there be any better example of futile, vain thinking than that. Because we refuse to glorify the God whom nature screams exists, we create all manner of absurd explanations and shut out even the light of nature from our reasoning. We press down on the spring, we suppress the knowledge that we have and our dark hearts become even darker. Which results in even darker actions, modern science is making all manner of barbarism palatable. So that freed from fear of God we feel no twinge of conscience at things like Euthanasia, Abortion, or destroying living embryos in our research. In fact, our science has become so unrighteous that even though adult stem cell research, which doesn't destroy lives, is the only one that has cured anything or shown any promise, our interest and funding is overwhelmingly directed towards *embryonic research* which so far has produced nothing of value but is to be preferred because it involves breaking the law of God.

The effect of the fall - our total depravity - is to be seen in all this. We hate Him so we deny him, and involve ourselves in all manner of unrighteousness. And by ourselves we could never climb back to a right understanding of God. But even if that were not the case, we need to remember that while the knowledge of God in creation is sufficient to leave us without excuse and thus CONVICT US, it is not enough to teach us how to worship God or be Saved. After years of examining the natural evidence Anthony Flew – became a Deist – but that is not enough:

For salvation and worship of the true God we need God's own SPECIAL revelation or as the Westminster Confession of faith tells us in Chapter 21.1:

The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might.[1] But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.[2]

1) God must tell us about how to worship him.

Q3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A3: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.[1]

2) God must also tell us how we are to be saved:

While nature reveals to us that there is a God and that His wrath is burning against us, via the evidence for the Fall and the Curse we see in nature and our own nature, Only through the scriptures could we learn that there is a savior Jesus Christ. Our own attempts at religion will never avail they will never:

Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

3) It is only by a change of HEART not more EVIDENCE that we can be saved.

The great atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell was once asked what he would say if he found himself standing before God on the judgement day and God asked him, 'Why didn't you believe in Me?' Russell replied, 'I would say, 'Not enough evidence, God! Not enough evidence!'

Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

*6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward
us in Christ Jesus.*

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

*10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared
beforehand that we should walk in them.*