

Journey Through Romans

ROMANS 1:18-20

CONDEMNATION: We come to a study now, of God's condemnation of sin and sinners: From verse 18 of chapter 1 all the way down through Chapter 3 and verse 20.

The book of Romans can be divided into the basic sections of: 1. SIN (1:18-3:20) 2. SALVATION (3:21-5:21) 3. SANCTIFICATION (6-8) 4. SOVEREIGNTY (9-11) 5. SERVICE (12:1-15:13)

- TRUTH: It is necessary to feel the condemnation of God before we can experience His salvation.
- Billy Sunday said, "No man is ready for the 'Balm of Gilead' until he has been raked over with the fine-toothed comb of the law."
- Lester Roloff used to preach a sermon called, "Dr. Law and Dr. Grace" ...
- The Law DIAGNOSES and finds us all sinners. Grace HEALS the sinner.

GOSPEL: It is also interesting that before God speaks of the wrath of God, he reveals His righteousness through the Gospel in verses 16-17.

- Illustration: Story about the elderly man I met while visiting.

[Rom 1:18 KJV] 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

1. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven

- a. (JFB) WRATH = "His holy displeasure and righteous vengeance against sin"
- b. (THAYER'S) = The wrath attributed to God in the N.T. is that in God which stands opposed to man's disobedience, obstinacy (esp. in resisting the gospel) and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same"

2. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men

- a. How can this be? We see the wicked prospering while good people seem to struggle.
 - i. COMMON GRACE - [Mat 5:45 KJV] 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
 - ii. [Psa 73:17-22 KJV] 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; [then] understood I their end. 18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. 19 How are they [brought] into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when [one] awaketh; [so], O Lord, when thou awakest,

thou shalt despise their image. 21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. 22 So foolish [was] I, and ignorant: I was [as] a beast before thee.

- b. But WE DO see God's wrath revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
 - i. Criminals are put in jail
 - ii. Evil nations collapse: Nazi Germany was destroyed
 - iii. Bible explains in Romans 13 how God uses government to punish sin and sinners
 - iv. The wicked have no peace - [Isa 57:20 KJV] 20 But the wicked [are] like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt...
 - v. Sinners are met with judgments in their own bodies
 - 1. Sexual sins bring STD's
 - 2. Drugs bring addiction
 - 3. Alcohol abuse results in health problems, hangovers, Cirrhosis of the liver.
 - vi. David and Bathsheba
 - 1. Commits adultery and murder
 - 2. Loses his peace
 - 3. Loses his child
 - 4. Family in turmoil
 - 5. Guilt
 - 6. Recorded forever in the pages of Scripture

c. **ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**

- i. Ungodliness = lack of reverence towards God (WITHOUT GOD)
- ii. Unrighteousness = in a legal sense, *lack of justice*. Violating law and justice. Unrighteousness of heart and life. (WITHOUT RIGHT)

3. [Rom 1:18 KJV] 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

- a. HOLD THE TRUTH = hold down the truth, suppress the truth.
- b. Examples: The Gay Marriage debate.

[Rom 1:19-20 KJV] 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

- 1. Charles Ryrie says that man is "condemned because truth was given to him and he by his actions rejected it." (Ryrie Study Bible)
- 2. General Revelation and Special Revelation
 - a. General Revelation – Creation, Conscience and Common Grace

- b. Special Revelation – Scripture
- 3. His eternal power and Godhead
 - a. Godhead = divinity, divine nature. (OBU)
- 4. Through Creation man knows that there is a God, a divine being who is all-powerful.
 - a. Even Atheism is not a lack of belief in God but a lack of desire for there to be a God who would rule and reign over the Atheist's life.
 - i. [Psa 14:1 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, [A Psalm] of David.]] 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.
- 5. **so that they are without excuse**- The general revelation of God in creation leaves mankind without any excuse.
 - a. **Dr. Henry Morris writes:** The phrase “without excuse” is literally, “without an apologetic” or “without a defense.” 1 Peter 3:15 instructs Christians to “be ready always to give an answer,” where the word “answer” is practically the same in both cases. In other words, Christians do have an apologetic and ought to be ready to give it whenever someone attacks or questions their faith. Those who do not see the eternal power and nature of God in the creation, on the other hand, have no apologetic. They are “without excuse” if they do not believe in our Creator God. The evidence is all around them. (Defender's Study Bible)
 - b. To picture a courtroom scene: Man stands before God. God asks man,
 - “Did you not know that I existed?”
 - “No,” says man. “I did not know about you.”
 - “What of creation?” asks God. “Could you not see that the mountains, and trees and sky and oceans—could you not tell that your own body was a miracle and had to have a designer?”
 - “I saw that,” says man. “But, I wanted to live my life the way I wanted to. I did not want to be responsible to God for what I did.”
 - “Then,” says God. “You are without excuse.”
 - c. JUST BECAUSE THE UNSAVED ARE WITHOUT AN EXCUSE, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE AN EXCUSE.
 - d. “We do not well, if we do not tell!” (Dr. Stinnett Ballew)
 - i. "Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household." (2 Kings 7:9 KJV)