

Theme: The matchless power of God is declared so wonderfully in the beauty and complexity of the heavens and the earth that it cannot be ignored. God has not left us without a witness to His hand over all creation. Yet many deny it as His work – to their own peril/destruction.

Background: From Luke 10:22 to I Corinthians 2:16

The Mind of Christ: REVEALED - RESTORED - RENEWED

Introduction: - Without knowledge of God – we can’t know ourselves. (Jeremiah 17:9)
- Without true knowledge of self - will never know God. (Romans 3:10ff)

I. A Serious Problem

A. We don’t know God

1. The scientific method doesn’t work
 - Want to use the laws of nature – to find the purpose of those laws
2. Knowing God is *Personal!*
 - Ephesians 5:32
 - Under His rule; In fellowship with Him

B. We do know God

1. We have an *awareness* of God from early days.
 - We fight the idea
2. How did we get here? Romans 1:18-23!

II. God IS Revealed

A. In Creation (Ps.19)

1. Revelation in nature has its limits v.20a
 - a. Eternal power
 - Things don’t make themselves
 - b. Deity!
 - There is a *divine* power
2. There is no excuse! (end of v.20)
 - There is plenty of evidence

B. In Humanity/Mankind (v.19)

- Internal Revelation; “It is plain to them”
- Missing the “sign” is no excuse

NOTE: God’s “Sign” is immense!

C. We are without excuse (v. 20b)

- None will do
- We don’t see *all* of God, but we see enough

III. God Is Rejected (Paul's 2nd point)

A. Suppressing the truth (18b)

1. "Hold back, hinder, suppress, restrain"
 - We have not, somehow, missed the truth
 - We deliberately hold it down
2. Guilty before God
 - We do this on purpose!
 - We have enough evidence to seek Him

WHY?

B. We don't like what we see!

1. We don't like where the truth leads!
 - The essence of Sin "We will be like God"
2. "Ungodliness"
 - They are not *like* God
 - They oppose God and his nature
3. "Unrighteousness/wickedness"
 - He demands holiness
 - They want to continue in their wickedness

NOTE: The real battle is a moral one – my "freedom" to do what "I want to do"
The intellectual/evidential arguments are secondary (as God sees it).

C. Creating substitute gods (22,23)

1. The true God is rejected, in spite of the evidence
 - They will not have his rule!
2. People make up their own

IV. God of Wrath (v.18) Paul's conclusion?

A. His wrath is *revealed!*

1. Futile thinking
2. Darkened hearts
3. Giving them up (26)

B. Convicting us of sin?

V. Our Only Hope

1. Let God be God!
2. Seek to have "the mind of Christ"