

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

12/20/2020 PM

"The Wrath of God - Its Cause" Romans 1:18-23



Introduction:

The "values" of our society:

- secularism
- materialism
- sensualism
- tolerance

"Secularization...cannot and will not tolerate the biblical worldview on any matter or issue. Indeed, the secular storm not only threatens issues of public policy like religious liberty, abortion access, and marital laws, but also levies a full broadside into private homes. The forces of modern 'progress' mount an offensive even against the family unit because the future disciples of the new worldview are our children. For an increasingly hostile secular culture to claim total dominance, it must eradicate any semblance or scent of a pre-modern or biblical worldview in the upbringing of the future generation."

– Al Mohler, *The Gathering Storm* (p. 74)

I. GOD'S WRATH IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN (vs. 18-19)

A. All Men Are Exposed To It (vs. 18a)

"for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness"

- What is the wrath of God?
- Against what is God's wrath revealed?
- How is God's wrath revealed?

B. All Men Are Exposed By It (vs. 18b)

"of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness"

C. No Man Is Exempt From It (vs. 19)

"because that which is known about God is evident within them"

"for God made it evident to them"

"The being of God may be apprehended, but cannot be comprehended. Finite understandings cannot perfectly know an infinite being; but there is that which 'in part' may be known." – Matthew Henry

II. GOD'S PERSON IS REVEALED BY HEAVEN (vs. 20)

A. "since creation"

"for since the creation of the world"

B. "clearly seen...understood"

"His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen"

Psalm 19:1-6 - "there is no speech or language where their voice is not heard" (NIV)

“being understood through what has been made” (= cause and effect; intelligent design)

C. “they are without excuse”

“so that they are without excuse” (c.f. 2:1)

III. MAN’S FOOLISHNESS IS HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS (vs. 21-23)

A. Consciously Irreligious (vs. 21a)

“for even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks”

B. Consequently Irrational (vs. 21b)

“but they became futile in their speculations”

“their foolish heart was darkened”

C. Consistently Stupid (vs. 22-23)

“professing to be wise, they became fools” (Psalm 115:3-8)

“and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures”

Isaiah 44:9-17

“The whole drift toward modernism that has blighted the church of God and nearly destroyed its living gospel may be traced to an hour when men began to turn from revelation to philosophy.”
– Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Conclusion:

- 1) God never condemns without just cause.
- 2) Natural revelation tells people that there is a Supreme Being, and it makes man responsible to respond to his creator in worship and submission.
- 3) Because mankind has chosen to reject the clear evidence of God’s existence and rule, God has allowed the human race to experience exactly how devastating life can be when lived in rebellion against God.