

THEY WERE WITHOUT EXCUSE (Romans 1:18-23)

I. The objects of God's wrath.

- A. God has a side to Him that demands that sin be punished.
 - 1. We might call it His just side.
 - 2. God is always going to do what is right and that includes punishing sinners.
- B. Paul tells us that God's wrath is shown to those who engage in all types of ungodliness.
 - 1. Ungodliness is a failure in our duties to God.
 - 2. In all ages, God has required certain things to be done in worship to Him.
 - 3. God has always revealed what He wanted, first through the fathers, or heads of families, then through the Mosaic Law.
 - 4. Those that fail to do what God has required have His wrath come upon them.
- C. God's wrath is also shown to those who engage in all unrighteousness.
 - 1. Some translations have injustice.
 - 2. This is a failure in our duties to our fellow man.
 - 3. God has always expected His creation to treat each other properly and has revealed how He wants this carried out.
- D. God's wrath will fall on those who hinder the truth from being spread.
 - 1. The Gentile world did this by their idolatry.
 - 2. It also was done through their opposition to the truth.
- E. The problem was that the knowledge of God had been suppressed through the ages by Gentiles.
 - 1. The forefathers of these Gentiles had the revelation of God through the fathers.
 - 2. However, they began to reject God.
- F. God had every right to punish the Gentiles because He had revealed Himself to them.
 - 1. God had revealed Himself to the heads of the families.
 - 2. There was no reason to not know God.
- G. The things that are made, the earth, universe and all that goes with these, reveal the fact of God to us.
 - 1. This is why teaching evolution is dangerous.
 - 2. It keeps us from seeing God.
- H. God's eternal power and divinity are seen in what He has so wondrously created for us.
- I. For this reason, that we should so clearly see Him in all things created, the Gentile world was without excuse for not being faithful to God.

II. The sins of the Gentiles.

- A. The Gentiles knew God but failed to give Him the glory and honor He was due.
 - 1. They failed to recognize God for who and what He was.

2. They gave Him no glory for His creative powers or His power to save mankind by faith in Him.
 3. They refused to work for Him in any way.
- B. They refused to thank God for the things He had done for them.
1. They did not thank Him for the land they had.
 2. They did not thank Him for the food and shelter.
 3. Because they refused to honor Him for all that He had done for them, they refused to show gratitude to Him.
- C. A lesson we must learn is that any time we accomplish something, we must remember that it is God that allows it to be accomplished.
1. When we do that which He's commanded us to do, God can then be glorified.
 2. When we take things on ourselves and accomplish something, we get the glory and not God and we will begin to fail to be thankful.
- D. Instead of being thankful they became vain in their thinking.
1. This carries the idea of failing to come up with the answer that the evidence shows.
 2. Having left God, they could no longer acknowledge Him as such because they kept the glory and honor for themselves.
 3. This caused them to be blind to the light of God and they stumbled in the darkness.
- E. All of this happened, not for lack of evidence, but for lack of faith in the One who created them.
- F. By doing all of this, they showed themselves to be foolish instead of wise.
- G. The rejection of God and glorification of self caused them to take the last step in leaving God and that is turning to idols.
1. The incorruptible, never dying God, was replaced.
 2. That with which He was replaced were images, idols, created to be like men and animals that would die.
- H. Several times in the Old Testament we read of descriptions of idols by the inspired writers.
1. They have hands but feel not.
 2. Feet but walk not.
 3. Eyes but see not and so on.
- I. Man, instead of glorifying and honoring the Creator of all things, used wood, stone or precious metals to create images of men and animals that could do nothing but sit there.
- J. This all happened because they began to glorify themselves and not God.