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| 1  Romans 1:18-32 Sermon Outline  09/26/24  “The Wrath of God”  **INTRO:**  November 20, 1945 = Nuremberg, Germany  = Start of International Military Tribunal  24 Nazis most guilty = “crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, war crimes, conspiracy”  Don’t need to give detail = well known and universally condemned = Nazis committed crimes so atrocious = Germany schools required to teach Holocaust  11 million people  6 million Jews systematically murdered!  Now, imagine tribunal of judges = instead of presenting insurmountable evidence = decided to feel sorry for Nazis and let them go | 2  What would be your reaction?  Response to judges?  Judges = corrupt + evil themselves right?  Nazis have to be punished and they were all executed  Well if imperfect sinful judges knew how to administer justice rightly = how much more = perfect, holy, just, righteous God have to judge sin and show wrath against sin?!!!  Not only that, despite God revealing His standards to men and offering solution to their problems, = humanity = still rejects God  Still rejects salvation = still insists on going their own way  That is what Apostle Paul going to explain Rom. 1:18-32…in gospel = God has revealed righteous standards in finished work of Christ and moreover He can credit an unrighteous sinner this righteousness to them…but most will not accept this truth. |
| 3  Most in fact = reject it and for that reason  God is currently displaying His wrath against  “*ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*”  We looked last week Rom. 1:1-17 = Paul comes w/ authority risen Lord J.C. to bring Gentiles = “obedience of faith”  Then eager to come to church in Rome and share in “fruit” of the gospel = to see sinners come saving faith in Christ  V. 14  “*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, In this way, for my part, I am eager to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome*.”  Why is he under obligation and eager to proclaim gospel? | 4  Because verse 16  “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH*.”  Paul knows ONLY thing save men from condemnation/wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness = power of gospel  That is reason why we are gathered here today  = all recipients of God’s saving grace from the coming wrath that is to come upon this whole world  And to tell others how they can be saved from God’s wrath  That is why Paul wrote this letter |
| 5  V. 18  “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*…”  God = provided a solution to our sin = righteousness of God  But what does humanity do? = stick their middle finger at God  They snub their noses at God  = Spit at His goodness + righteousness  Trample under their feet the precious blood of Jesus Christ  When you think about God’s wrath, don’t think of it = human wrath  Human wrath = inconsistent + often based off of feelings rather than truth | 6  One day you might be rightfully angry at a sin of someone, but you might not based on the time place and occasion of something that changes how you perceive something  The wrath of the Greek gods is like human wrath. When people thought they did something to displease Zeus, they were afraid that he would punish them with a bolt of lightning from the sky  God’s wrath is always consistent + always based on an absolute standard which is His unchanging holiness = He’s not going nuts or ballistic as we envision wrath  Human wrath is reactionary whereas God’s wrath is measured and purposeful and a measured response to all that contradicts to His righteous and holy character  The fact that God’s wrath is God’s righteous response to sin is consistent and not like human wrath = is a comforting but also more terrifying reality than human anger |
| 7  It is comforting to us to know that God’s wrath is always righteous, meaning we can expect His wrath to come as a consequence of our sin  = Not left guessing if God is going to explode or not one moment to next  But also more terrifying than human anger = because it is always accurate, and it will accomplish the fullness of that wrath  So with that in mind V. 18 “ungodliness” = fail to worship God what is due Him  Don’t respect him  Furthermore “unrighteous” = they do not do what is right and just in the sight of God and they are unrighteous towards man  Do this all the while “*suppressing the truth in unrighteousness*”  Muffle/stifle/choke out plain, evident truth of God in their unrighteousness! | 8  You know issue of people not believing in God = not intellectual one, but it’s moral  Are no athiests!  There is a place and a time for good philosophical arguments for the existence of God but realize that that is not going to bring someone to the Lord  Romans 1 = says they KNOW that God exists!  Problem = they don’t want to believe!  Don’t want to be accountable to a holy God  Nothing more nerve-wracking to a man committing sin than being conscious of the presence of a God who requires moral accountability  Why do they know God exists?  V. 19 “*because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.* |
| 9  *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse*.”  God made Himself/His power “plain”/ “clear” “manifest” to through creation  Every single moment of existence = watching sun rise/set  Beautiful waterfall  Birth of baby  Millions of different species in animal/insect kingdom  Change of seasons + fall, winter, spring, summer  Furthermore, God’s law written in their heart and in their conscience  = clearly reveals the eternal power of God | 10  His “divine nature” = God  That’s what Ps. 19 says right?  “*Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world*.”  It's as if David = “creation is so obviously pointing to God = as if trees SCREAMING existence of almighty God!  Why is this general revelation of God so clear = so that men would be without “excuse”!  Not a single person that will stand before GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT say to God = “I didn’t know”  no, ALL are without excuse! |
| 11  Even savage barbarians who sacrifice their own people to their gods and those who murder others and eat their own people today = know deep down there is God who is going to require an account for their evil  Paul continues V. 21  “*For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures*.”  For the believer, the religion of the Christian faith is man at his highest  But for unbeliever, religion is man at his lowest  Idolatry and religion form slowly overtime in a society  Starts with mythology of how world came about, etc. etc. then materializes into actual idols of wood, metal | 12  The symptom of God’s abandoning wrath is false religion  They don’t glorify/nor give thanks to the Creator  One of signs of unbeliever = lack of thanks  Signs of believer = full of thanks to God  If you aren’t thankful to God = what does that produce = grumbling and complaining = like Israelites  But along with that in their false religion = think they are “wise”  Like Acts 17 when Paul preached to the Areopagus, the philosophical elite of Athens = like Ph.D scholars of our day musing about different theories about God which are false = in reality = their god is their wise scholarship = foolish  Because men insist on their own way/desires/what does God do? He “hands” them over to their own desires |
| 13  One of the most frightening judgments in Scripture = abandons individual + nation  Nation = filled with sexual immorality, pornography, other sexual perversion = sign that God has abandoned them to their sins  V. 24  *“Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*  But God “abandons” “Hands over” in a regression  First gives people over to “lusts of their hearts to impurity” = bodies would be dishonored among them  Why?  Exchanged truth of God for a lie  “Truth of God” = through creation = reveals divine Creator who through eternal power made everything | 14  But instead they say “no” I would rather believe lie than be accountable to my sin  Believe that everything happened by random chance, slime to apes to humans? Sure!  Believe in myths like Greek mythology? Sure! Listen to what the Greeks used to believe  “*In the beginning, there was only Chaos, the gaping emptiness. Then, either all by themselves or out of the formless void, sprang forth three more primordial deities: Gaea (Earth), Tartarus (the Underworld), and Eros (Love). Once Love was there, Gaea and Chaos – two female deities – were able to procreate and shape everything known and unknown in the universe. Chaos gave birth to Erebus (Darkness) and Nyx (Night). Erebus slept with his sister Nyx, and out of this union Aether, the bright upper air, and Hemera, the Day, emerged. Afterward, feared by everyone but her brother, Night fashioned a family of haunting forces all by herself. Among others, her children included the hateful Moros (Fate), the black Ker (Doom), Thanatos (Death), Hypnos (Sleep), Oneiroi (Dreams),* |
| 15  *Geras (Old Age), Oizus (Pain), Nemesis (Revenge), Eris (Strife), Apate (Deceit), Philotes (Sexual Pleasure), Momos (Blame), and the Hesperides (the Daughters of the Evening)*.”  Famous phrase “people are willing to believe ANYTHING, as long as it’s not the truth.”  V. 25 God = “Creator who is blessed forever!”  “Blessed” = not Makarios (Matt. 5)  Rather = where we get our word eulogy from = to give thanks  Only used of God not man in NT  It is description of God that speaks to His worthiness as the Creator to be worshipped, honored, and revered among His creatures  Because the only reasonable response to a gracious God creating us = giving us life = praise Him give him thanks! | 16  But humanity doesn’t!  So V. 26  “*For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions; for their females exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error*.”  Next regression: Sinning “unnaturally” = homosexuality  Adultery = still sin worthy of hell just like homosexuality = but unlike adultery, homosexuality = unnatural = God didn’t design us to procreate and have a covenant union with someone of same sex  Males with males don’t create babies  Females with females don’t create babies! |
| 17  Look Paul is not trying to gay-bash  The Bible is not homophobic, the Bible is sin-phobic  But what Paul is trying to do is show the wrath of God is clearly seen through those given over to homosexuality  That word “passion” = more than strong desire = being taken over in their passions  Can’t help it!  Not only are those who sin unnaturally are experiencing abandoning wrath of God, they also receive consequential wrath of God!  “receive in their own persons the due penalty of their error”  = Not sure exactly what Paul is talking about here = the only thing I could think of that makes sense is referring to STD, AIDS, | 18  I mean it is not that opposite gender fornication does not get syphilis or gonorrhea, etc. but STDs, especially AIDS runs rampant in homosexual communities  I mean CDC recorded that in 2022, among the 31,800 men who contracted the HIV virus (which leads to AIDS), 71% of the men identified as gay or bisexual  Is it any wonder that within the safety and blessing of the covenant of marriage = husband + wife can have sexual relations thousands of times = never contradict a single STD?  But this passage = not speaking about eternal wrath = but present wrath we are experiencing  Like wrath that David was experiencing in his body for his unconfessed sin of murder and adultery  Talks about in Ps. 32 “his bones were wasting away”  “Vitality = life = Dried up like the fever heat of summer” |
| 19  C.S. Lewis once said of hell,  “*There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it.*”  Right this very second people are spitting at God’s face, desiring their will to be done,  Like those in Psalm 2 who hate being under the Messiah’s lordship saying  *“Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!”*  And God says, okay if you really are insisting on going about it your own way, if you really want me to remove the restraints, go right ahead  ILLUST:  Like a kid who is learning to ride a bicycle with training wheels and thinks he’s ready without them… | 20  Do you realize that God’s restraining grace is actually showing that He loves us?  If you truly love someone, will you not tell someone they are wrong or that they are headed for a cliff they do not know of?  What do you do when you despise someone or don’t care for someone? You let them experience the fullest consequence of their sin right?!  ILLUST:  God’s restraining grace = hook holding up chain links  ILLUST:  “Amazing” testimony vs. “regular” testimony  I used to think like that…oh I wish I had a testimony like that…but no you don’t want a testimony like that!  Paul talks about that very thing later in Romans: “Shall we sin that grace may abound?” = Oh well if I sin more, then grace will really be magnified in life! |
| 21  The proper perspective that person who was in drugs, out in the streets, etc. immorality = he should be dead,  God could have let him overdosed and it would have been just for God to do so  You don’t want to be under the abandoning wrath of God  Well what happen when you still insist on going your way? Verse 28, final stages  “*And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper, having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, violent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful*.” | 22  At this point God breaks the dam of his restraining grace and unleashes the pressurized flood of sin into a person’s life  First impurity of heart = degrading of body = unfit/unsound mind  When you allow sin to take its course, it effects not only your body but your mind, your faculties…  You can’t even think straight anymore!  That’s why people throw themselves off a cliff! It makes absolutely no sense to us who have a sound mind, but that’s what sin does!  Some translations “debased” mind  “Degenerate mind” filled with evil manifests itself in all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil  Full of envy = what is envy? |
| 23  [Envy and jealousy](https://www.gotquestions.org/difference-envy-jealousy.html) are closely related and sometimes used interchangeably in modern Bible translations, but they are not quite synonymous.  Envy is a reaction to lacking something that another person possesses.  Jealousy is a reaction to the fear or threat of losing something, or often someone, we possess.  Envy is the distress or resentment we feel when others have what we have not.  Jealousy is the sense of dread or suspicion we feel when what we have might be taken away.  Malice = you inflict pain/misery on others just because  Not only do these things, your identity becomes these things  “Gossips” = psithuristes = lit. whisperings = psst psst | 24  Slanderers = you publicly tear down others  “Haters of God” = you waste your life raging against your maker like Satan  violent, arrogant, boastful,  inventors of evil = movies/Hollywood/culture degeneracy of violence and sex  Disobedient to parents = So serious to obey your parents = death penalty in OT for being rebellious to parents  We see the breakdown of family in our country in parent-child relationships  Children are out of control  That’s what they are…this is what they are not  Without…understanding  Without trust |
| 25  Without love  Without mercy  Without the restraining grace of God we all eventually turn out like this  Jesus declared the default condition of man as this John 3:19  “*And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed*.”  We have not evolved into a more sophisticated culture, we have actually devolved and descended I would argue lower than the rats?  Is the mention of rats offensive? Well you should be offended because that’s the reality! | 26  Cause even the rats who live in the sewars knows that males mate with females and females mate with males  And furthermore rats are not confused about their gender whether they are male or female  I mean some of this is almost comical and we laugh because of how absurd it sounds  If you would have talked to someone in the 60s I would think about someone trying to change their gender, they would have laughed at you thinking you were from another planet  But it’s really sad the level of degeneracy we as a society have come to  But you know, this is not even the worst… as unnatural as homosexuality is and as bizzare as transgenderism is, it’s not the worst sin  Worst sin = V. 32 |
| 27  “*and although they know the righteous requirement of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them*.”  Final step of regression = their minds are so warped by sin they start calling good evil and evil good  It’s like when people claim they can be a Christian and a homosexual at the same time, or a Christian and a transgender at the same time, or a Christian and “name a sin” at the same time and you say “how can that be?”  Well they’ve redefined the terms to fit their sinful lifestyle  The scariest place to be in this life is when you not only know that you should be suffering eternal hell for the sins you are committing, but you encourage others to do the same and drag them to hell with you | 28  When you believe “sin” is the gospel  Unpardonable/unforgiveable sin = some believe unique to Pharisees  But I believe still is possible to commit today  When you concluded that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit’s work is actually Satan’s work  Call ultimate good = ultimate evil and ultimate evil = ultimate good  Jesus will be willing to forgive men who blaspheme Him, but to attribute Jesus to Satan is unforgiveable  We have looked at some uncomfortable subjects today  Why does Paul write so much in detail of our sin and God’s wrath?  Why? |
| 29  Because bad news has to come before the good news  We need to be shown how ugly our sin is in order to see the beauty of the gospel  We need to be exposed to the horror of our sin in its full colors and how much God hates sin to understand why Jesus had to die on the cross  Maybe as Paul was listing off specific sins like cannon shots, maybe you resonated with one of several of those  Maybe he was describing you!  Maybe to your horror you realize that you have been experiencing God’s abandoning wrath this whole time!  But if you are aware of that, know that God didn’t let you go down this simple path to fully condemn you, but to awaken you to your need for a Savior  There is hope no matter how far you have gone in your depravity | 30  There is hope for those who have murdered people  There is hope for the transgender who had an irreversible sex change surgery  There was a king who found hope after he literally became a beast of the field  In book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar was judged for his pride and his sins and God transformed him into a beast that lost his mind and he grazed about in the field for 7 whole years!  But at the end of those 7 years, God restored his mind and I believe saved him from his sins  His response in Dan. 4:34  “*But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes toward heaven, and my knowledge returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;* |
| 31  *For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.*  *And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can strike against His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’*  *At that time my knowledge returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my high officials and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my kingdom, and extraordinary greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride*.”  He was a recipient of God’s abandoning wrath = but when he humbled himself before almighty God and cried out to him  When he was done living a life below the animals | 32  He cried out to the Savior and God saved him  You may have exchanged the truth of God for a lie, but Christ is calling you to exchange the lie you are living in with the truth of God which is Jesus Christ and His righteousness  Let’s pray  Benediction:  1 Thessalonians 5:23-24  “*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it*.” |