Romans 1:18-32

Part 2

Last week we talked about the fact that all mankind was "without excuse". It was guilty before God. Deserving of God's wrath. Verse 18 states, "for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." So we see that the wrath of God is revealed just as the character of God is revealed. So way is mankind deserving of God's wrath? What is it that mankind has done that God would unleash such anger at him? Why would God be so firm about this?

First, let's look at who God is. God is Holy. God is Righteous. God is sinless. God is jealous. God demands honor and worship. The Ten Commandments tell us this. Therefore, anyone who ignores these truths will be subject to the wrath of God. I believe that there are 7 things that mankind as a whole society has done to be under the condemnation of God.

- I. Mankind suppresses the truth Verse 18c How many times do we see this happening today? The news is filled each day with the disinformation of people who want their unrighteousness accepted and recognized as truth. It is incredible to me that people are under no conscience today about telling obvious lies and mistruth. The truth here is that "all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." The fact of the matter is that Adam passed down to all his sons, the true nature of God. And they passed it down to their sons, and so forth. Believe me, Adam knew the character of God. After his little talk with God in the Garden after the "apple delight", Adam knew God better than before, because he knew he was sinful. I am convinced that Adam taught his sons and daughters about the character of God. [Gen. 4:3] Mankind suppresses the truth, but God commands us to "teach the truth of God to our children". [Deut. 6:4-15] And if we don't, someone will teach them something different as truth, as we will see later.
- II. <u>Mankind rejects Gods authority</u> Verse 21b This is always the next step after someone chooses to suppress the truth. One cannot ignore the truth of God and not reject God's authority. Without God's truth, His authority is in vain, and without His authority, His truth is a lie. Mankind cannot stand to be accountable to God and His truth because it is against man's sin nature. God's truth shows mankind for what he is, and the authority of God, makes good on the promises of God concerning His truth. [2 Kings 17:13-15]
- III. <u>Mankind is arrogant in his Godless ignorance</u> Verse 22-23 This seems to be absolutely incredible to me. Yet it is the Politically Correct thing to do. The philosophy of today is, "If you can't prove it, I didn't do it". Or, "It's what I wanted to do and I have my rights." How that must grieve God's heart. Here were folks claiming to be wise and influential and leaders, only to make fools of themselves because of their ignorance. They were willing to exchange the glory of God and His incorruptible, that is "being incapable of being corrupted", for that which is only an

- image of a corruptible form. Idols. How smart is that? To ignore worship of the one true God and worship an idol is stupid. [Jer. 10:14]
- IV. <u>Mankind exchanges the normal for the abnormal</u> Verse 24-27 Much like verse 22, Paul reveals to us that the next logical step of a society who suppresses the truth will eventually make the abnormal normal, in a effort to appease its conscience. It just doesn't work that way. Look at what these people were doing. Adultery, promiscuity, and homosexuality were becoming normal. And all this in the temple. God gave them over to the control of their sin. <u>[Jer. 5:30; 7:16]</u>
- V. Mankind removes God from public debate Verse 28 How true is this today. We cannot use the name of Jesus Christ in any public prayer and if we talk about God in the public square, folks get real upset. Our government has now officially stated that "America is not a Christian Nation". One translation puts it "they refused to even have God in their vocabulary of knowledge". How far have we come? We think as a people we do not need God and therefore do not need to talk about Him. I few remove God from our conversation, is there any right and wrong? What is our idea of right and wrong based upon? How do we judge it? Can we judge it? [Jer. 18:12]
- VI. <u>Mankind engages in demonic deeds</u> Verse 29-32 As if verse 26 and 27 wasn't bad enough, mankind takes the big plunge in these verses. God has always known the heart of man. <u>[Jer. 17:9; 2 Kings 17:15-17]</u> Look at the movies and games out today. Why all the demonic influence? Why all the justification of the "Wicken" lifestyle? Why all the need to bring the Holy righteous God down to mankind's level? Doesn't this sound like some sit-coms on TV today?
- VII. Mankind becomes a society without a conscience Verse 32 Go back to [Jer. 5:30] People love to behave as if there is no consequence for their behavior. Those of you with children know that without consequence, there is little good behavior during the "terrible twos". Teenagers just repeat the terrible twos for four more years. I guess its like misery loves company. If I'm going to get in trouble for this, so will you. But if we all do and all say it's OK, then who can say it's wrong? What a sad way to live.

To live without a conscience is to have no purpose or meaning in life. In today's society, the major cause of self-inflected pain, drugs, alcohol, sex, and even death, is lack of purpose. We are all guilty of being born with a sin nature, but God sent His son to die so we might live. [John 10:10]