

I. Revealed in Nature - Romans 1:18-20

1. Most have a sense of good and bad
- Rea -prisoners in prison understand when they have been stolen from - they know it's wrong
2. The wrath of God has been revealed against godlessness
- Rea -so, not only is there a right and wrong, but God judges those who do wrong - He doesn't just watch from heaven
- Rea -we might ask... how is that "revealed" - Scripture
3. Wrath revealed:
 - A. Godlessness - irreverence toward God
 - B. Wickedness - injustice and wrongdoing
 - Rea -this word is stronger than just doing wrong... it implies Satanic work
 - C. They suppress the truth
 - Rea Jesus is the truth, Satan is a liar
 Suppress what may be known
 - Rea D. So... what may be known - well, its been made plain by God, ... even though "invisible"
 - 1) His eternal power
 - 2) Divine nature
 - 3) Clearly understood by what we see
3. God demonstrated His power through creation
- Rea -science shows on television wonder at the majesty of the universe, and for those of us who are believers, the power of the Creator
- Rea -there is a Creator who is superior to the creation just as an artisan is superior to his/ her creation. Which is greater the craft or the creator?
4. Bottom line - "people are without excuse"
- no one can claim ignorance of God
- Rea -all are accountable?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. If there is no good in man, then how may we see and understand these things are from God?
 2. One of the wonders of mankind, is his deep understanding of spiritual things - which is the reason there are so many, many religions
 3. When witnessing, begin (sometimes) with the majesty of the created order - is speaks to:
 - God's "bigness"
 - God's thoughts show up in the created order
 - this is an orderly world - principles of "gravity" and "inertia" etc are very orderly
 - the majesty of creation -its expanse, and beauty speak to the same in the Creator

II. Replaced by Nonsense - Romans 1:21-23

1. They rejected what may be known of God
 - this verse (21) recounts mankind's response to the majesty of God
 - obviously this verse points out that the proper response would've been to "give

- thanks”
2. “Futile” in thinking
- worthless
- Rea -discuss “futile thinking”
- the effect of sin on the mind
- Rea -both “hearts” and “minds” are named - a “dark heart?”
3. They thought themselves to be “wise” but in reality were “fools” (22)
- Rea -sounds like a few college professors I’ve known
- when sinners remain unrepentant it affects their hearts... they go dark, unable to perceive the difference between right and wrong
- Rea -some lose all “common sense”
- Rea -compare James chapter 3 for God’s wisdom and the wisdom of man
4. They deny the Lord
- exchanged God for birds, reptiles, etc - images
 - idolatry is mentioned - “images made to look like”
- Rea -discuss the “god-making” inclination of man
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. When you kick out God, what do you replaced Him with?
 - very few can live “without god” - they will make a god
 2. There is a progressive revelation in the Bible
 - A. The revelation starts with this basic understanding that there is a majestic, orderly God
 - B. Then the basic principles of the ten commands - right and wrong
 - incidentally sometimes God explains why things are right and wrong, and sometimes He does not
 - C. Then the application of these laws/ principles brought to us by prophets
 - D. Then the Son comes (gospels) to fulfill both Old Testament law and Old Testament prophetic work
 - E. Now a new covenant through the Son works out the salvation that God gave, and even intended in the Old Testament - directed by Holy Spirit
 3. Do you know anyone who has a “dark heart?” - discuss

III. Delivered Over - Romans 1:24-28

1. Bad decisions have consequences (**verses 24-25**)
 - A. He gave them over - to sexual impurity
 - degrading their bodies with one another
 - a destruction follows their rejecting of God’s truth
 - B. They exchange truth for a lie
 - they worship creature rather than creator
- Rea -is there any logic in swapping God for the created order? How do men and women chose a lie rather than the truth?
- C. God gave them over (**verses 26-27**)
 - again
 - “because of this” - in response to our decision
 - given over to shameful lusts
 - unnatural lusts
- Rea

Rea -these lusts are further defined - homosexual lusts
 -the Bible thus, clearly teaches that homosexuality is “unnatural”
 D. Gave them over (**verse 28**)

Rea -again
 -He gave them over to a depraved mind
Rea -KJV says “reprobate” mind
 -Jude 7 calls it a “perversion” in NIV

2. You cannot reject God, and sin without consequences

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Discuss what happens when God “turns you over” to yourself
2. What is a “depraved” mind? - how do you get there?
3. It is a terrible thing for God to turn you loose
 -turned over to our own “free-will”
4. Discuss the downward trend of sin - where does it start and where does it end?

IV. Deserving Death - Romans 1:32

 1. Sometimes we know right and wrong, and God’s place, but we don’t care
Rea 2. Holy Spirit is given to convince of righteousness, and judgement (to come)
 3. They not only do wrong, but they approve of those who do these things
Rea -on television there is a “approving” club of those who are on the wrong track and
 boast in it
Rea -this verse in KJV says these people “have pleasure” in these things instead of
 “approve” -some parade their unrighteousness
 4. They “deserve death”
Rea -show by their actions they deserve death

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Paul is arguing that salvation is for all - but first in these first few chapters has to put all mankind in the same boat - for all have sinned against God - therefore we all deserve death
 -after all the “wages of sin is death” - Romans 3:23
2. Repentance of our sin allows us to be cleansed and begin a new life
3. A mind may be “darkened” but a mind can also be “enlightened”
 -and, by the way, YOU are the light of the world
4. The gospel message begins something like this - “God loves you”
 -God already loves them, but they don’t know that - they need to be “enlightened”

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