

Session #5: “WITHOUT EXCUSE” — Romans 1:18-23

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions: A number will be asked at the beginning of the study

INTRODUCTION - *Romans 1:1-17* - THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD -

Romans 1:18-8:39 - Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - *1:18-3:20*

1A. CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO REJECT THE REVELATION OF GOD - ROMANS 1:18-32

1B. Their **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of God in creation condemns them - 18-23

Rom 1:18 For the **wrath of God is revealed** from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

The “**wrath of God is revealed**” – the passage begins with the **reasons**, and ends with the **results** or proof of this opening statement.

The Greek word, *orge*, is used 36 times in the NT of which 11 are in Romans.

The term “**wrath of God**” is found in *John 3:36; Eph. 5:6; and Col. 3:6*.

Cf. *Rom. 1:17 & 3:21* where the “**righteousness of God...is revealed**”

The “**wrath of God**” is directed toward “**all ungodliness and unrighteousness**”

Notice three things: 1C. The **Suppression** of the truth - 18-19 - “**who hold** (hold down; suppress - in NIV and NAS) **the truth in unrighteousness**” - cf. *II Peter 3:5-7*

1D. The **problem** behind the deliberate suppression of the truth - “**unrighteousness**” - *Jude 16-19*

2D. The **proof** is rather obvious – 19 - *Psalms 19:1-6; Isaiah 40:26; Jeremiah 10:10-13; Acts 14:11-18; 17:23-30*.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen**, being **understood** by the **things that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**.

2C. The **Seriousness** of their rejection – 20 - “**without excuse**”

1D. The **power** of God is “**clearly seen**” - “**things that are made**” - Greek: *poiema* - cf. *Eph. 2:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16*.

2D. The **presence** of God before the creation is “**understood**”

He would have to be “**eternal**.” - cf. *Col. 1:17* - “**before all things**”

Rom 1:21 **because**, although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful**, but **became futile in their thoughts**, and **their foolish hearts were darkened**.

Rom 1:22 **Professing to be wise, they became fools**.

3C. The **Steps** leading to their rejection - 21-23 - vv. *19 & 21* - begin with *dioti* - “**because**”

1D. They **refused** to glorify God - “**they did not glorify Him as God**” - Cf. *Romans 3:23; I Cor. 10:31; Psalm 29:1-2; Rev. 4:11*.

2D. They **rebelled** against giving thanks to God - “**nor were thankful**” - cf. *Luke 17:11-19; Psalms 100: II Tim. 3:1-5* - “**unthankful**”

3D. They **reasoned** in their own minds as to what might have brought the universe into existence “**became futile in their thoughts**” - NASB - “**speculations**” - *Eph. 4:17-19* - Greek: *dialogismois* - used 14 times as a noun, 16 times as a verb.

4D. They **regarded** themselves as intellectually capable - “**Professing to be wise**” cf. *I Cor. 1:19-21*

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

5D. They **reduced** the Creator to that which has been created – 23 - “**changed**” NIV/NASB - “**exchanged**” - cf. *Psalms 106:19-22*

CONCLUSION: (1) Mental and spiritual darkness is the result of leaving God out of your thinking and your behavior! v. *21* - “**their foolish hearts were darkened**”

(2) Religious paganism is the result of our failure to worship the God of all creation!

v. *22* - “**they became fools**” - *Isaiah 44:9-20; Jeremiah 2:11-13*.

