



GOD'S WRATH

Romans 1:18-23

Introduction: Paul Begins a New Section from 1:18-3:21

I. The Nature of God's Wrath (v.18)

- A. God's Wrath is Foundational—It's why we need the Gospel
 - o The purpose of the word "for"
 - o This is Paul's primary motivation for proclaiming the Gospel!
 - o Why is that people don't like the concept of God's wrath?
- B. God's Wrath is Universal—It falls on "all" unrighteousness
 - o Paul includes all humanity—even the Gentiles "out there"
 - o Who do we normally think *really* deserves God's wrath?
- C. God's Wrath is Revealed—It is an Essential Part of God's Character
 - o "from heaven" shows that it is a part of who God is
 - **Wrath is not raw, uncontrolled emotion (like a fit of rage), but God's just displeasure toward sin
 - o How does God reveal his wrath?

II. The Reason for God's Wrath (v.19-23)

Key Question: Is God's wrath justified? Is he being unfair to people?

- A. The Reality of God is Plainly Revealed in Creation (v.19-20)
 - o What are the attributes of God revealed in the natural world?
 - o Mankind is "without excuse" because these attributes are "plain"!
 - "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard." Ps 19:1-2

- **Notice *all* people have sufficient evidence for God, not just philosophers or thinkers!
- o Is the revelation of God in nature enough to save a person?
- B. Despite this Plain Revelation of God, Mankind has Worshipped Idols (v.21-23)
- o Mankind "suppresses" the knowledge of God that he possesses
 - * In what ways does the truth of men's knowledge of God "pop up" in someone's life, despite their best effort to suppress it?
 - * According to Paul, there are no atheists!
 - o Mankind exchanges the true God for false gods (idols)
 - * How does Paul describe idolatry here? Why is it so foolish?
 - * Key point: Non-Christian thinking is "darkened" because of rejection of God
- C. Key Conclusion: All People Sin Knowingly and Intentionally, and are justly deserving of God's Wrath

Discussion Groups

1. Do you struggle to accept the reality of God's wrath? Why or why not?

2. Share how understanding the depth of your own sin, and God's just wrath on that sin, has helped deepen your appreciation for Christ's work on the cross.

3. How does understanding the fact that God has revealed himself in nature help and/or change the way you do evangelism? How does it help you understand the way non-Christians think?
