

God's Good News About Righteousness

An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

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Study 2, The Condemnation of the Gentiles (Romans 1:18-32)

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17).
- B. **CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20**
 - 1. **The Condemnation of Gentiles 1:18-32.** (The term Gentiles refers to non Jewish people in the world.)
 - a. **The Constant Unveiling of God's Wrath. 1:18.** (The word *revealed* means literally, *unveiled*.)
 - 1) What is God angry against?
 - 2) What truth does man kind typically suppress (1:18-19)?
 - b. **The Process of Man's Distortion of the Truth about God. 1:19-23.**
 - 1) REVELATION. God has clearly revealed Himself to man (1:19). How has He done so (1:20)?
 - 2) What can we know about God from nature (1:20)?
 - 3) What does Psalm 19:1-6 add to the previous question?
 - 4) DISTORTION. Man started by knowing about God (1:21; see also Genesis 1-2).
 - 5) What steps did man take in distorting the truth about God (1:21-22)?
 - 6) Man foolishly began to worship the Creation rather than the Creator (1:22-23).
 - a) How has this substitute worship typically expressed itself (1:23)?
 - b) How has this substitute worship expressed itself in the religions of Eastern Mysticism (Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age)?

- c) How has this substitute worship typically expressed itself in modern day Science and Education?

c. **JUDGMENT. God's Judgmental Giving Over of Mankind to Evil. 1:24-32.** The verdict on the human race is terrible (1:25). When man exchanges the Truth about God for a Lie and chooses to worship and serve the Creation rather than the Creator, God gives mankind over to three terrible judgments.

- 1) **IMPURITY.** The first thing to which God gives those who reject Him is lust in their hearts to commit impurity (1:24). (This means moral impurity. See 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Colossians 3:5.)
 - a) What effect, from God's point of view, does this have on the human body?
 - b) How has our society's view of fidelity in marriage and of promiscuity changed in the last 100 years?
 - c) To what do you attribute this?
- 2) **DEGRADING PASSIONS.** The second thing to which God gives those who reject Him is degrading passions (1:26).
 - a) How do the degrading passions reveal themselves in women (1:26)?
 - b) In men (1:27)?
 - c) The text says that those who participate in these degrading passions receive "in their own persons the due penalty of their error." What do you think that means?
 - d) How has our society changed its view of these degrading passions in the last 100 years?
 - e) To what do you attribute this?

3) **DEPRAVED MIND.** Since these people “did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer,” what is the third thing to which He gives them (1:28)?

a) What kind of actions does this result in (1:28)?

b) List each trait that results from a “depraved mind” (1:29-31).

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- c) In 1:32, we are told that those who have a depraved mind know that in God's laws these practices are worthy of death, but they persist any way! What encouragement do they give others?
- d) Do you think our society's participation in these 21 items has increased or decreased in the last 100 years?
- e) To what do you attribute this?
- f) Over-all do you see greater growth in the number of people in our society who worship and serve the Creator, or do you see greater growth in the number of people in our society who worship and serve the Creation?
- g) Do you see an increase or a decrease in our society's acceptance of moral laws?
- h) What is your conclusion about what is happening in our society?
- i) What are your recommendations?

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