



Romans 1:18-32

# THE CONDEMNATION OF SINFUL HUMANITY

When we hear of God's wrath, we usually think of thunderbolts from heaven, and earthly cataclysms and flaming majesty, instead of which his anger goes quietly and invisibly to work in handing sinners over to themselves. As John Ziesler writes, "[God's wrath] operates not by God's intervention but precisely by his **not** intervening, by letting men and women go their own way." God abandons stubborn sinners to their willful self-centeredness, and the resulting process of moral and spiritual degeneration is to be understood as a judicial act of God. This is the revelation of God's wrath from heaven.  
—John Stott (1921-2011)

Romans 1:18-3:20 diagnoses what is wrong with the world—what is wrong with *all* of us...*each* of us. The good news only makes sense when you know the bad news. You only fully embrace the cure when you are fully aware of your condition.

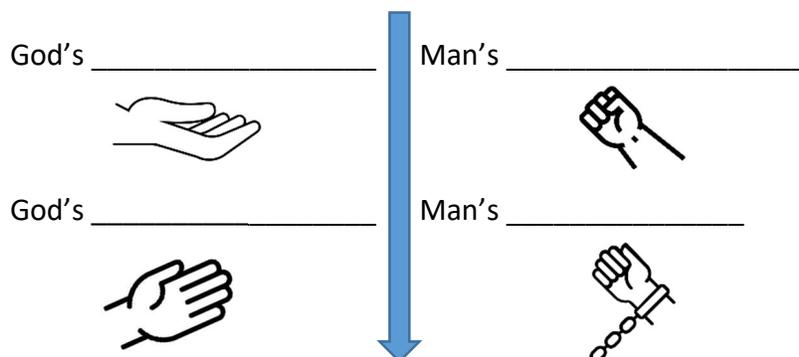
## WHY DO WE NEED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. (1:18-19)*

**The Reality:** This present world is under God's \_\_\_\_\_, His righteous judgment against sin (cf. Gen. 3:14-19).

**The Reason:** Humanity has not only sinned against God and against one another but has done so in a willful suppression and rejection of God's truth and revelation.

## The Explanation (1:20-32)



*Paul's aim is to show that the whole of humanity is morally bankrupt, unable to claim a favorable verdict at the judgment bar of God, desperately in need of His mercy and pardon.*

—F.F. Bruce

*The history of the world is the judgment of the world.*

—Friedrich Schiller

*God's wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the disease that would take the life of her child.*

—A. W. Tozer

*Ungodliness is against God and unrighteousness is against man.*

—J. B. Lightfoot

**Suppress.** Greek, *katecho*, "to hold down; repress" (Vincent).

The picture of putting all of one's weight on something in order to keep it from moving or escaping.

*We all know, regardless of what we tell ourselves, that there is a Creator, on whom we are utterly dependent and to whom we are completely accountable.*

—Timothy Keller

## GOD'S REVELATION TO HUMANITY (1:20)

- It is a \_\_\_\_\_ witness (cf. Psalm 19:1-3).
- It is an \_\_\_\_\_ witness (cf. John 1:9; 16:8-11).

## HUMANITY'S REJECTION OF GOD (1:21-23)

- Humanity \_\_\_\_\_ God (cf. Psalm 14:1).
- Humanity \_\_\_\_\_ to praise or thank Him.
- Humanity \_\_\_\_\_ Him in foolish arrogance.

## GOD'S RELEASE OF HUMANITY (1:24-28)

- God gives us over to our \_\_\_\_\_ (1:24-25).
- God gives us over to our sexual \_\_\_\_\_ (1:26-27).
- God gives us over to a self-deceived mind that leads to self-centered, self-gratifying, self-destructive \_\_\_\_\_ (1:28).

## HUMANITY'S RUIN WITHOUT GOD (1:29-32)

Rejecting God and desiring absolute freedom to pursue our own ways, our selfish lusts continue to increase, growing full of every type of sin, lacking sense, faithfulness, love, forgiveness, or mercy, and approving and applauding more and more sin in others.

*It is ever-increasing \_\_\_\_\_ leading to ever-increasing \_\_\_\_\_ bringing ever-decreasing \_\_\_\_\_ and resulting in never-ending \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Should a man live underground and there converse with the works of art and mechanism and should afterwards be brought up into the open day, and see the several glories of the heaven and earth, he would immediately pronounce them the works of such a Being as we define God to be. —Aristotle (384-322 BC)*

*I can see, and that is why I can be happy, in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden. I can see a God-made world not a man-made world. —Helen Keller*

*The fundamental sin is the failure to glorify God and give him thanks. —Thomas Schreiner*

*Same-sex eroticism is "contrary to nature" because the primary sex organs fit male to female, not female to female or male to male. ...For Paul it was a simple matter of commonsense observation of human anatomy and procreative function that even pagans, otherwise oblivious to God's direct revelation in the Bible, had no excuse for not knowing. —Robert Gagnon*

*The only constant in this world is God. Gayness, on the other hand, can be an immovable identity only when the heart is unwilling to bow. —Jackie Hill Perry*

*The end-point of depravity is not just the suicidal love affair with sin, but the desire to bring others with you to destruction. —John Piper*

*The door to hell is locked from the inside. The damned...enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved. —C. S. Lewis*