

The Verdict (Part One)

The Unrighteous Are Guilty

Romans 1:18-32

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. In verse 18, Paul gives somewhat of an overview for the entire passage. From this verse, what do men do with the truth that God gives? Explain this in your own words. What is God's reaction to this?
2. What is the "wrath of God?" Is it an uncontrolled emotional outburst, or is it fixed, determined, and calculated? List some instances in Scripture where the "wrath of God" was very literally "revealed from heaven."
3. Read Psalm 5:4-6. When you hear people say, "God is a God of love and He would never send anyone to hell," what will you tell them?

8. From the end of verse 20, what purpose does general revelation serve?

9. If the sins committed under the limited knowledge that general revelation brings are inexcusable, how great must be the wrath of God brought down upon those who have continued to sin under the full knowledge of Scripture?

10. Does general revelation contain enough information to bring a person into a right relationship with God? Explain your answer. (See Romans 3:11-12; John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10, 13, 17 for help).

11. Based upon what we have studied so far, will God ever condemn people for ignorance of the truth? Support your answer.

12. Why do you think that the world is trying so hard to come up with an explanation for the origin of the world other than creation? As bogus and unscientific as their theories are, why do they still choose to believe them?

13. Because general revelation is insufficient to bring a person into a right relationship with God, how important is it to get the saving revelation of the gospel into their hands? Considering how urgent the need is, what do you plan to do about it?
14. How can you use the general revelation of nature as a spring board for the gospel? See Acts 17:22-31.
15. A correct response to the knowledge of God would have been to honor God and live a life of gratitude to Him. But this is not what man has chosen to do. From verses 21-23, what happened when man rejected God's truth?
16. Rejecting God's truth has consequences. Paul says that one of the consequences is that "God gave them up." What is the idea here? How many times is this mentioned in this passage?

17. Have you bought into the lie that the creature can exist independently of the Creator? Can people find happiness and fulfillment in doing their own thing? What are some things that people do in an effort to ignore God?

18. Is homosexuality a legitimate alternative lifestyle? What would you say to a person that said that they were born a homosexual?

19. Paul singles out idolatry and homosexuality as two examples of how low man can go in pursuit of his own lusts. However, we must remember that churchgoers today worship many "modern idols" and any sexual perversion is a sin against God. Name some modern idols that people who claim to be Christians worship. Also, what is God's plan for sex? Use Scripture to support your answer.

20. What is a "depraved mind?"

21. Verses 29-31 list a number of sins that people are bound and enslaved to because they refused God's truth. What would your assessment be of a person who claims to know God, but yet who has a life characterized by sins in this list? Are there any sins in this list that dominate your life?

22. Using vv. 22-32, list the sins we usually classify as "major" and the sins we usually classify as "minor." What does the fact that both are found in the same list tell us about our methods of "classification?"

23. What is the "realistic view" of such behaviors? (v. 32).

24. Give an example of how a person could abstain from certain sins, and yet still give the impression of approving of them. Are you guilty of ever doing this?

Suggested memory verses:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:21).

"And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them" (Romans 1:32).