

Man Judges God Unworthy of Retaining (Rom 1:21-32)

- Paul, having told us that the wrath of God must come, because of the character of sin and because of the inexcusableness of sin, now gives the details of man's rebellion against God and God's judgment of man
- I. **How** does man bring the wrath of God upon himself?
 - A) Man's thinking toward God (man's suppresses the truth concerning God)
 - 1. Rom 1:21- "Glorified Him not as God"
 - i. Man removes God from His rightful place as God
 - a) Psa 104- Man was created to glorify and worship God
 - 1) Yet it is man alone among all the natural creation which rebels against God
 - 2) Rom 8:7- Carnal mind is enmity against God
 - 2. Rom 1:21- "Neither were thankful"
 - i. Man doesn't thank God for all His blessings, like the sun, the rain, the seasons, work, etc., but instead complain and murmur against God
 - a) We Christians fail so mightily here, how much more so the world?
 - 3. Rom 1:28- "Did not like to retain God in their knowledge"
 - i. Like- "to prove, to approve, to assay, to try"
 - a) Luke 14:19, 1 Cor 3:13, Gal 6:4)
 - b) This essentially amounts to "they judged God unworthy of retaining in their minds, or they weighed Him in the balance and found Him unworthy of mention"
 - 1) Man believes he is the judge that determines all things, even the existence of God
 - (a) And this is after God has revealed Himself to man
 - (b) "well, I think....." with the very intelligence and reason God graced man with
 - c) Or it is "not worthwhile to retain God"
 - 1) As the old fashioned and unlearned did, or my simple grandparents
 - (a) This is the product of "evolution" and "caveman"
 - 4. Rom 1:32- "Who knowing the judgment of God"
 - i. All men know that sin is to be judged by God, and that is right
 - a) Man not only ignores this knowledge, but goes so far as to rejoice in sin and glorify it

- 1) Listen to people joking about their sins, and boasting which was worse among them

B) Man's practice concerning God (Rom 1:28- from "full knowledge" to "given up")

1. Rom 1:23 & 25- Man makes himself gods
 - i. This is perhaps the most offensive, as man didn't want to have God but didn't wanna be done with worship
 - ii. Man rejects the incorruptible God as "undesirable" and instead makes himself corruptible gods
 - a) Rom 1:23- Note the descending order here (devolution)
 - b) Consider the vileness and hideousness of man's idols and images
 - 1) Mutated men, half man/half beast, wicked beasts, vile creatures so often centered on sex and lust
2. Rom 1:25- Turns the truth into a lie
 - i. Desiring a narrative of some kind, man replaces God's truth with mythology, astronomy, superstition
 - a) Man sets aside everything that is true about the invisible and spiritual God and replaces it with visible and material gods
 - b) Man even replaces the law of God in the conscience with their own code of godless morality and judgment
 - ii. Deut 4:15-19- Any likeness to God can only detract from the true glory of His person and attributes
 - iii. To put our own ideas before the truth of the scriptures is to detract from God and His truth and to idolize man and self
 - a) Also to judge the truth by our own understanding is idolatry
 - 1) "Well, I think....."
 - 2) The doctrine of election is a great example of this
 - (a) "I can't fully comprehend this, so then it must be untrue"
 - b) Scripture is not subject to testing by my understanding or ideas

II. **Results** (with man)

A) Rom 1:22- Man "became fools"

1. Psa 14:1- "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" and man alone rules
 - i. "I've studied all the facts and have ascertained there is no God"
 - a) This very thing proves the ridiculous results of man's turning from the only God to worship idols or self, he only proves he is a fool by his own foolish remarks
 - 1) Example of the man who says there is nothing to Beethoven, but loves Lady Gaga, he is only proving his own ignorance of music"
 - (a) "I can't possibly believe in God," but believes in evolution

- (b) "I can't possibly be so ridiculous to consult some unseen God" but goes to Lady Cleo
- (c) "I can't be so stupid as to believe an invisible God controls the outcome of thing," yet believes in astrology
- (d) "It's degrading to bow down to God," and then they bow down to some entertainer or sports star
- (e) "I don't have time to worship some God," but then stand in line for a concert or game for hours

B) Rom 1:26 & 28- Man become ALL foul and vile

- 1. Look at how contemporary this message is, and how vile the world is today
 - i. Not only does min live in vileness, but rejoices in it, celebrates it, and fights for his right to it
- 2. Rom 1:29-32- ALL vileness and unrighteousness when given up by God
 - i. All this a result of denying God His proper place

III. Results (with God)

A) Dan 5:25-28- Man is weighed in the balance and given up, God judges!

- 1. Rom 1:24- God gave them up (play on words, as man "gave up/did not like to retain God", or put God in the balance and found Him not worthy of man's attention)
 - i. Rom 1:26 & 28- God gives up man, as individuals, as families, as nations and ultimately the world
 - a) Man did not want to retain (constrain) God so God did not retain them
 - 1) Consider God's "restraining grace"
- 2. Man, in his intelligence gave up God, and so God gives up man's intelligence to complete "foolishness"
 - i. Look at picture of new education secretary
- 3. Man, in his lust for sins, did not like to acknowledge God and judgment, and so God gives man up to utter vileness and depravity of sin
 - i. Man fights for sin's dominion, and God gives him over to be ruled by it: "this isn't sin, it's medical or natural, and in fact it is the height of beauty and glory"
- 4. Man did not want the revelation God placed in every man, and so God gave man up and there remains nothing of the acknowledgment of God in him
 - i. Prov 16:25- "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man..."
 - a) God alone can preserve man and constrain sin, and when God withdraws, man is utterly condemned and given over to sin "let loose"

B) The world today is the greatest example and proof of God's wrath toward sin

1. To designate the wrath of God as always in flaming fire is to miss the judgments God has given out concerning sin down through the ages
 - i. Consider Israel's scattered condition today, which is God's wrath poured upon them
2. The one doctrine the world hates above all others, God's wrath upon sin, is the surest proof today of the existence of God in this world!