

The Inexcusableness of Sin

(Rom 1:18-20)

- In verse 18, Paul makes the statement that God will judge ALL ungodliness (sin), and unrighteousness (sins), in v.19 he begins his defense of that statement

I. The reasons God MUST judge all sin/sins

A) Because ('for') of the very nature of sin and what it is- "ungodliness" (v.18)

B) "Because" of the inexcusableness of it (rebellion) (v.18) "holds truth"

1. Man cannot plead ignorance of his sins and thus his sin

a) Internally revealed

1) Because he holds the truth in unrighteousness

(a) Hold- Can mean to "hold tight/ protect" or to "hold back, restrain, suppress" and meaning must be derived from context

(1) Here it is certain it means to "suppress or fight back"

(b) Truth- Not the truth of salvation, but a general truth concerning God

2) To hold the truth, he must possess it

(a) Rom 1:21- "When they knew God"

(b) Rom 1:28- "Did not like to retain God in their knowledge"

2. How does man have this truth?

a) Internally revealed

1) "Manifest in them" (v.19)

(a) Universally revealed in every man

(1) There is a sense of God in every single man by conception, and no matter where you go in history or the world, people worship a supreme being, even the remotest and most isolated tribes of the world

(2) This is the thing which the atheist struggles against and attempts to put down by "education" and "science" and his passion against it is evidence of it

(b) By conscience

(1) Rom 1:32- Man knows right from wrong and punishment

1. Man knows sin deserves punishment, and approves of such in crimes against himself, thus also condemns his own sin (Rom 2:1)

b) Externally revealed

1) By creation- Rom 1:20- Creation and nature give the knowledge of God

(a) Psa 19:1-6- The heavens declare God's glory (not referring to the "gospel in the stars" here)

- (1) Psa 147, Acts 14:15-17, Job 37-39
 - (2) The universe, stars, planets, sun, moon, seasons, animals, order all declare God
 - (3) Creation is either an accident or it is ordered by intelligent design
- 2) By providence- The arrangement of nature and His providing for all creatures declares God
 - (a) Psa 104- Sending the seasons and the snow, sending the sun and melting it, watering the seed, bringing forth the fruit, etc.
- 3) By history- God's existence is proved by world's history and events
 - (a) Gen 1-3- Only explanation of man's nature
 - (b) Gen 6-9- Only explanation of earth's current state
 - (c) Gen 10-12- Only explanation of current civilization
 - (1) Consider also his interceding in the events of history to bring about His desired outcome
- 3. 2 types of the revelation of God: general to all and then special to some
 - i. **General** (partial)- "the invisible things of God" (v.20) (not the "invisible God")
 - a) All the world holds this truth- "clearly seen" (v.20)
 - 1) General is "His eternal power and Godhead"
 - (a) Power- seen in creation and nature, storms, earthquakes, floods, etc.
 - (b) Godhead- "deity, divinity" his attributes surpassing man, His abilities
 - 2) There is not enough of God in the general to save, but there is enough to condemn or justify man's condemnation
 - (a) Our own internal struggle and rebellion against God is enough to convict us and show us our "ungodliness and unrighteousness"
 - 3) "Mazzeroth"- If there is the "gospel in the stars," then this is certainly not general knowledge, and MUST have been revealed by God
 - 4) If the general pagan world is w/o excuse, how much more so the Jews? And if the Jews, how much do we exceed them today who have all the scriptures???
 - ii. **Special**- The truth the Lord reveals to us concerning salvation
 - a) 1 Cor 2:14- This truth can't be known except by the Holy Spirit
- 4. Why does man fight against God?
 - i. Pride
 - a) Rom 1:22- "Wise" and trusting intellect and self
 - b) To be "educated" is to no longer believe those old "superstitions"

- c) Pride was the first sin of Lucifer
 - d) Pride was also the first sin of man, as he believed he could “be like God”
 - 1) 1 Cor 1:19-31- “Not many wise are called”
 - ii. Wickedness (evil)
 - a) Rom 1:21- “Vain in his imaginations”
 - 1) Means wicked and foolish in our reasoning’s, and thinking
 - (a) Instead of accepting the general light God gives to all, man rebels against that knowledge
 - (1) Rom 1:22-25- “I am wise and can think it through myself”
 - (2) Col 2:8- Philosophy and vain deceit
 - iii. Lust
 - a) Rom 1:32- We fight against God and conscience in an effort to retain our sins
 - 1) We deny the internal conviction and go about to justify ourselves in what we do and desire to do
 - iv. Self glorification
 - a) Rom 1:21- Refusal to glorify God
 - 1) Man desires to get rid of God because God is holy and righteous, and if man admits God then man acknowledges his own sin and unworthiness and justifies his own condemnation
5. Denying the light of God
- i. Rom 1:21- By denying this general “light” or revelation, man becomes darkened
 - a) John 1:9- “Lighteth every man that cometh into the world”
 - b) By denying the light God gives, man becomes incapable of seeing even the general revelation of God, or “blinded”
 - 1) This results in a total inability to see the Son of God, just as the Jews who denied the light of the Law
 - ii. Eph 4:17-19- Having their understanding darkened and alienated from the life of God through ignorance
 - a) Eph 5:8- Saved man called out of this darkness
 - b) No one in that darkness can claim condemnation is unworthy, as all have rebelled against the knowledge of God