

# Ungodliness and Unrighteousness

(Rom 1:18)

- Paul has said that the wrath of God was foremost in motivation for preaching the gospel, for it is to fall on every lost man, and he now explains why that is
- I. What is the wrath of God revealed against?
  - A) Ungodliness- “Sin”-The nature/character of sin
  - B) Unrighteousness- “Sins”- The proof that makes sin inexcusable
- II. What is “sin”
  - A) 1 John 3:4- Sin is any transgression of God’s law
  - B) Rom 3:19-20- The law convicts all of sin
    - 1. Ex 31:18- Two tables written with the finger of God
      - i. 1<sup>st</sup> table- Man’s relation to God (godliness)
      - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> table- Man’s relation to man (righteousness)
        - a) Any and every failure of the law written on both tables must be punished
          - 1) Ezek 18:4- The soul that sinneth it must die
- III. The importance of the order in which Paul writes these
  - A) Mark 12:28-34- The 2 tables representative of all the law
    - 1. Notice which comes first, the commands concerning the worship of God, or “godliness”
    - 2. Ungodliness- to come short of God’s expectation and requirement
      - i. Rom 3:23- “Continually come short of God’s glory”
        - a) “To love God with ALL heart, soul, mind and strength”
      - ii. Ungodliness- is man’s refusal to live 100% to God’s will and glory
        - a) John 5:30- Christ came not to do His Own will, but God’s
        - b) John 8:50- Christ came not seeking His Own glory but God’s
          - 1) Thus the Lord Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the law and all righteousness in the flesh
  - B) 1<sup>st</sup> Ungodliness- must proceed unrighteousness always
    - 1. The true nature and essence of sin is simply “Ungodliness” (our relationship to God)
    - 2. All “sins” (unrighteousness) are the product of “sin” (ungodliness)
    - 3. Ungodliness was the first sin, and it came before Adam and Eve ever ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they sought to serve “self”
      - i. Their eating of it was the first “unrighteousness” and was the outward proof of the inward reality

- a) Matt 19:16-22- The Lord uses the 2<sup>nd</sup> table to convict the conscience (proof/evidence)
- 4. Paul puts ungodliness 1<sup>st</sup> because this is what convicts all mankind, and though I might not know nor can see your “sins,” I can be certain of your “sin”
  - a) Convicting the entire world of sin is Paul’s purpose in this section, and there are many that committed no unrighteousness but are still conceived in ungodliness
  - b) We deserve hell because of “Ungodliness,” unrighteousness is just the fruit of that corrupt tree that we all are by birth
- IV. The rest of Romans chapter 1 is an exposition of these 2 principles- “ungodliness and unrighteousness”
  - A) There is no sin that is not against truth, as Paul declares in our verse, because of creation, conscience and word
    - 1. “For it has been revealed”
- V. We must never separate ungodliness and unrighteousness, these 2 must always come together and in this order
  - A) Take the opposites for an example: Godliness and righteousness
    - 1. If we take only Godliness, then we will become anti-nomian, and our practice will not be the fruit of our doctrine
      - i. 2 Tim 3:5- “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof”
      - ii. In other words, if we look only at our perceived “standing” with God imputed us in Christ, then we will ignore the practice of a Christian life
        - a) “I’m glad I’m saved and I don’t have to worry about sins”
    - 2. If we take only righteousness, then we will fall into the error of self-reformation
      - i. Rom 9:31-10:4- The Jewish mistake was in not recognizing their relationship to God
      - ii. Matt 12:43-45- The uselessness of self-reformation
      - iii. This is so important today because of the “social gospel” and “political correctness”
        - a) Man always believes he can have righteousness without God
          - 1) This is because they have never seen the truth about “Ungodliness”
            - (a) Preach on “sins” and men will agree, preach on “sin” and they rebel
  - B) It is our relationship to God that all men will be judged by (godliness or ungodliness)
    - 1. A man must be brought to the point of seeing, “I can’t stand before God unaided, He is too holy and I am too vile”

2. Example of the lady who professed she almost wished she had been guilty of the worst crimes so she could see herself a sinner
    - i. This is the result of separating “righteousness” away from “godliness”
      - a) “Good people,” “law and order,” “decent and moral”
        - 1) This lay at the core of man’s acceptance of “political correctness”
        - 2) This lay also at the core of many grievous errors down through church history
          - (a) Church seems to always turn from God to only righteousness
          - (b) Social gospel, WWJD, Sermon on the Mount Alone
          - (c) This satisfies the pride of the natural man and removes the offense of “sin”
          - (d) This is exactly what produced “Phariseeism”
      - b) Examples- YMCA, Salvation Army, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, schools, etc.
        - 1) Lady- “my kids always did much better when they went to church”
          - (a) “Do we want to produce gentlemen or Christians?”- MLJ
      - c) The world today proves this as well, and you cannot understand history if we do not understand this very thing
        - 1) Turn from God and hell follows
          - (a) Yet the hell is usually in the form of “goodness”
        - 2) What was the result of the Enlightenment and Higher Criticism, and the social gospel?
          - (a) Do we have morality today? Do we have peace on earth? Do we have righteousness?
            - (1) Sweep the house clean, but without regeneration, the result is 7xs worse
- C) Anytime we start with man and not with God, we are wrong
  1. True evangelism always starts with God and not with man
    - i. A man must be brought face to face with his relationship to God as a sinner
    - ii. Preaching the gospel starts with man’s “sin” and not his “sins”
      - a) We must treat the disease and not the symptoms
  2. 2 Cor 11:3- “Another Jesus”
    - i. There is a rampant type of “Jesus Idolatry” today
      - a) Notice how they speak of “Jesus” and never of the Lord Jesus Christ
      - b) “Jesus can bring me happiness,” or “Jesus is my example of morality,” “WWJD”
      - c) “Jesus Christ Superstar”

- 1) These things are all the Son without the Father, and you can never separate the Godhead
  - 2) This is just another way of separating “righteousness” out and away from “Godliness”
  3. 1 Pet 1:18- But the truth is that the Lord Jesus Christ brings the child of God back to God the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit
    - i. Thus Godliness leads to peace, joy, love and true desire for righteousness
    - ii. Righteousness is the fruit of Godliness
      - a) Eph 2:10- We are His workmanship
      - b) 1 Cor 2:9- We are God’s husbandry, building
- Notice how each and every word of scripture is so important and not to be just skipped over!