

Sept 27, 2015

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth.**

19 For **what** can be known **about God is plain to them**, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived**, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.**

21 For although **they knew God**, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but **they became futile in their thinking**, and **their foolish hearts were darkened.**

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and **exchanged the glory** of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore

God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

25 because they **exchanged the truth** about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason

God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they **did not see fit to acknowledge God**,

God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice.

They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32 **Though they know God's decree** that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Paul's argument for Gentile guilt

How can they be responsible if they do not have the written law?

Because of the knowledge of God they have through creation which they now suppress.

What we learn from Romans 1

- Some knowledge, but limited
- Suppression creates a descent from truth into idolatry
- God hands over: “God does not simply let the boat go—he gives it a push downstream.” —
Douglass Moo
- Three part slide
 1. Passions—Living like an animal
 2. Unnatural Passions —Living like a pervert
 3. Perverse Mind—Becoming perverse
- Calling evil good and good evil— no remains but wrath

How do we enter a world-view?

(taken in part from a Tim Keller lecture)

1. Gain Plausibility
 - Speak their cultural language
 - Good non-verbal communication
 - Be Credible
2. Gain Credibility
 - Demonstrate you know their world-view
 - Show compassion and sympathy for their struggles in their world-view
 - Move from things in common (points of contact) to areas that are unknown
3. Challenging Their Perspective
 - Identify the things that they are really relying on or basing their lives on
 - De-stabilize by showing the inadequacy or incompatibility of their own principles
 - Re-stabilize with Christ