

LESSON 9
ROMANS 1:18-32
11-06-2019

Rom 1:18 *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 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. 21 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. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of 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 over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 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."*

Starting at verse 18, Paul **begins** to show how there are two groups of people in the world that are fully accountable to God in thought, word and deed. Those two groups include the Jews (Nation of Israel - all those born by blood lineage from

the seed of Abraham) and the Gentiles which included all the other Nations in the world excluding the Nation of Israel. The Nation of Israel was God's chosen Nation [I Chronicles 17:21 *"And what one nation in the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt? 22 For Your people Israel You made Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, became their God.* Amos 3:2 *"You (Nation of Israel beginning with Abraham to whom the promise was made - Genesis 17:17-18) only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; ..."]. In the first 3 chapters of the Book of Romans, beginning at chapter one verse 18, Paul begins to establish the absolute truth and reality that there is none righteous in the sight of God, including both groups - Gentiles and Jews. Both groups (Jew and Gentile together) include every person born into this world. The reasons explained by Paul in these 3 chapters are why Paul preceded verse 18 with verses 16 & 17, *"the righteous man lives by faith"*. The gospel which is the power of God unto salvation is the only hope for man to receive a righteousness that God accepts and allows in His sight - Christ's Righteousness. And this righteousness is received by Grace Alone through Faith Alone. The gospel IS the only hope of salvation for all born of Adam. Paul begins from verse 18 thru verse 32 speaking mainly of the Gentiles [Ephesians 2:11 *"Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called 'Uncircumcision' by the so-called 'Circumcision', which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time (Before Christ - Old Testament days) separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." Remember, All the heathen (Gentile) Nations perished and for the most part lived according to verses 18 thru 32 - at some level in this downward spiral; with the exception of a few Gentiles from those Nations (Rahab the harlot, Ruth, etc.) converting to the Jewish faith throughout the Old Testament history. These heathen Nations were enemies to the Nation of Israel]. In verse 18, Paul makes it clear *"... the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ..."*. The wrath of God is His "final manifestation of divine vengeance" (Phrase taken from "Bakers New Testament Commentary"). The wrath of God is active**

judgments such as The Great Flood in Noah's day, Sodom & Gomorrah, plagues upon Egypt, bowls of wrath in the Book of Revelation, etc.. Ungodliness is a lack of reverence for God and refusal to worship Him for Who He is. Unrighteousness is living in opposition to God's laws and refusal to obey Him. [Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall (All individuals in verses 18 thru 32 Will NOT) Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."; John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; ..." We are all guilty of not Loving God before the New Birth.] They instead suppress (hold back, restrain, hinder) His truths by their **obstinate and willful refusal to worship and obey Him!** They "... suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. God made it evident to them in this way: 20 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. Even those who never hear the gospel are without excuse!!! God has shown Himself to all human beings through His creation. We all know that He **IS** through the things He has made (general revelation - in this sense we "know Him"). The reality of His Creation screams out that He exists and that He is all powerful and divine but this knowledge is suppressed in unrighteousness (living in opposition to His laws and refusal to obey Him due to love of sin), 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks (Ungodliness - definition above), but they became futile in their speculations (Evolution, Darwinism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Scientism, etc.), and their foolish heart was darkened [They hardened their hearts by their refusal to believe the invisible things about Him they see in His creation and refusal to take heed to their consciences (searing their consciences - Romans 2:14-15); even by speculating lies to bury the truth and cover their sinful living - and God may harden their hearts more when they refuse to repent of what they know in their hearts is wrong]. Willfully refusing to repent, they continue by: 22 Professing (themselves - human wisdom and human pride) to be wise, they became fools (Psalm 14:1 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good."), 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man

and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures [Idol worship - Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ...". Remember, putting self first (above God) is idol worship of "self as God"]. They continue further in their ungodliness and unrighteousness by refusing to repent and turn back to God, 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen (Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, ..."). AND, 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, (lesbianism - female homosexuality) 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts (male homosexuality) and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer (Those who refuse to repent harden their own hearts over time; and if impenitent after often being reproved by God to turn, will eventually fall under His just judgments - wrath)., The due penalty of their error is: God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper (Basically giving them over to their own lusts - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life); whereby they are 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 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." Sinners love sinners and desire for everyone to do and accept the things they love and accept - to live like they live. [Verses 18 thru 32 is a picture of the downward spiral of Gentiles "without God" in this world before Christ's first coming. **All are at some level** in the downward cycle of verses 18 thru 32. The people during Noah's day are an example of this progression downward over time and is why God reached the point of saying in **Genesis 6:5** "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.'" **Genesis 19:1-11** is another example of the finality of this downward spiral starting at **Romans 1:19** - showing the end product of the citizens of Sodom who progressively hardened their hearts willfully towards God over a long period of time with their lives ending at verse 32 - with all manner of evil!!! **Gen 19:4** "Before they (Lot, Family & angels) lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; 5 and they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.'" And, **Gen 19:11** "They (angels) struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway."]

BUT, God is long suffering and will turn from wrath and have great compassion upon anyone and everyone who will turn to Him in genuine repentance and faith. **Isaiah 55:6** "Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.)