

Romans - Part 2
Romans 1:18-23
Accused - Guilty or Innocent
09/19/2021

- Romans
- Diagnose the Problem
- The Rebellious - The Religious and The Respectable

Romans 1:18-23 (ESV) 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.

THE CASE: Is man innocent or guilty before God?

THE CHARGE: Man has deliberately rejected God

THE PROSECUTOR: The Apostle Paul

THE ACCUSED: All of humanity

THE DEFENSE: "without excuse" (vs. 21b)

THE EVIDENCE: Verses 19-32

THE VERDICT: The death penalty! (vs. 32)

1st) The **PENALTY**.

- What are we facing

A) The **WRATH** of God.

Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven

- Literally means controlled anger

B) Eternal **SEPARATION** from God

Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the wages of sin is death,

2nd) The **PERPETRATOR**.

Romans 1:19 (ESV) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them

- Them equals us
- All of Mankind

I) The Charge: **REJECTION** of God.

Romans 1:18b (NIV) ...against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

- The charge is that man has deliberately rejected God
- The thought is - I will be only judged by the god that I make not the God who made me
- 3 ways of rejection
- Man is charged with godlessness - Trying to live as though God doesn't exist
- Man is charged with wickedness - Living without any rules
- Man is charged with suppression of truth - an act of rebellion against common sense
- Intellectual Dishonesty
- Godlessness is a sin against God
- Wickedness is a sin against man
- Suppression of truth is a sin against Jesus

II) The **EVIDENCE**.

- God's Existence
- God's revealed himself to man

A) It's **CERTAIN**.

Romans 1:19 (ESV) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Psalms 19:1 (NIV) The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

- God is seen through nature

B) It's **COSMIC**.

Romans 1:20a (ESV) For his invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature,

What does creation teach us about God?

God is eternal *His eternal power*

God is powerful *His divine nature*

C) It's **CLEAR**.

Romans 1:20b (ESV)..have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

III) The **DEFENSE**.

Romans 1:20c (ESV) So they are without excuse.

"There is no possible defense for their conduct."

"Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

-- Rick Warren

3rd) The **PRONOUNCEMENT**.

Romans 2:1 (AMP) Therefore you have no excuse or justification, everyone of you who [hypocritically] judges and condemns others; for in passing judgment on another person, you condemn yourself, because you who judge [from a position of arrogance or self-righteousness] are habitually practicing the very same things [which you denounce].

Romans 3:23 (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Guilty
- God has revealed himself

Romans 2:21-23 (ESV) 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.

- General Revelation
- Dishonor
- they did not honor Him as God
- Unthankful
- or give thanks to Him
- Wrong thinking
- but they became futile in their thinking
- Arrogance

- Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

Psalm 14:1 (CEB) Fools say in their hearts, There is no God. They are corrupt and do evil things; not one of them does anything good.

4th) The **PUNISHMENT**.

Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The acknowledgment of our weakness is the first step in repairing our loss.
—Thomas à Kempis*

*The greatest of sins is to be conscious of no sin.
—William Barclay*

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -- Jesus

- Simple - acknowledge your need for Jesus

1 John 1:22 (NIV) He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Jesus steps into to save us but the choice is ours

Romans 2:4 (AMP) Or do you have no regard for the wealth of His kindness and tolerance and patience [in withholding His wrath]? Are you [actually] unaware or ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness leads you to repentance [that is, to change your inner self, your old way of thinking—seek His purpose for your life]?

(ERV) God has been kind to you. He has been very patient, waiting for you to change. But you think nothing of his kindness. Maybe you don't understand that God is kind to you so that you will decide to change your lives.

- It's the grace of God that draws us to him