

Romans 1:18-32 God Gives Us What We Want

10/11/09 - The Exchange

- I. Let me tell you what your problem is. Paul is going to tell us why all mankind needs the gospel.
- II. **1:18-23**
 - A. **1:18** contrast with **1:17**. Not opposites, part of the One.
 1. **wrath** - pent up and released anger. Popeye syndrome.
 2. **suppress** - restrain, both good and bad connotations. Context. Hold a child in your arms to protect. Child grow up, must let go.
 3. **truth** - when the unveiled reality and the appearance of reality are in agreement.
 - a) A magic trick has the appearance of truth, and the actual truth. Thumb trick and first row kids. Chris Angel.
 - b) Two problems with relative truth; self-refuting/contradicting
 - (1) There is relative truth in some areas. Sports.
 - (2) There is absolute truth in reality. God, morals, etc.
 4. About to discuss this truth & describe a process, a cyclical one.
 - B. **1:19**
 1. **what may be known** - one word, know in your head, learn.
 2. **manifest** - out there, open, obvious, available to be known.
 3. **shown** - different conjugation of manifest, to manifest.
 4. The truth that men are suppressing is evident for all to know because God has made it knowable to all.
 - C. **1:20**
 1. When did God start showing us this truth? **Since the creation of the world.**
 2. What can't be seen (**invisible attributes**) can be **clearly seen** - to look down from a high vantage point so as to see all.
 3. **being understood** - seen with the eyes? No, the mind.
 4. How is it seen with the mind? **by the thing that are made.** OT2.
 5. What truth can be known about God? **His eternal power and Godhead** - His God-ness.
 6. **without excuse** - no apologetic, no defense.
 7. Not just seen or felt, understood. Comprehended. God wants to be known. Ever thought of it like that? Word, logos, study.
 - D. **1:21**
 1. When we suppress the truth of God, our thinking processes produce nothing, and our unintelligent hearts do not produce light.
 2. We think we are thinking for ourselves, that we are free, but in reality we lose the source of truth. The results?
 - E. **1:22-23**
 1. Changed and exchanged.
 2. **Slide of ancient idols of people, animals.**
 3. **Slide of modern idols of people, animals.** Churches called museums, priests like Dr. Richard Dawkins.
 4. I love science. Originally search for how God's creation works.
 5. Dawkins quote, reread vs. **Mind freak magic trick on Dawkins.**
 6. We think we've come so far. Not much has changed. Rescs.

III. 1:24-27

- A. Not two things, one thing repeated. Pretty self explanatory. God gave them up is Him simply saying, "OK, go for it."
- B. In effect saying God isn't the authority over us, we are.

IV. 1:28-32

- A. like - having tested they did not approve
- B. retain - have, hold on to
- C. knowledge - epignosis, experiential knowledge.
- D. And even as they didn't want God to be part of the equation in their lives... Look at our world today, esp. since the 1960s.
- E. This list is in the context of the Mosaic Law, which reveals the heart and mind of God. Again, pretty self-explanatory.
- F. Not speech to incite hate and violence, rather to indicate where God sees these things. We have punishment for crime, no different. Difference is who is the authority.
- G. Paul is telling us what our problem is; sin. Rom. 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, John 3:16-17, Romans 10:9.

V. Wrap up

- A. These are the results of suppressing, restraining the truth of God. This process, progression is what the wrath of God is revealed against.
- B. What truth about God am I suppressing in my life? The reality of the Spirit in my life? Fear?
- C. What have I exchanged in my life? The power and control of the Spirit in my life? Fear?
- D. What am I asking God for and He is giving it to me? Fear that.
- E. Back to 1:16-17. Available to all, only through Jesus and power of the Spirit.