

LESSON 4: ROMANS 1:18-2:29

Righteousness and Wrath

1. In verses 18-23, what exactly is the sin of man sin against which God reveals his wrath? Can you give examples from the history of Israel?
2. How would you define ungodliness, unrighteousness, and suppression of the truth?
3. What has been the impact of sin on mankind's intellect and spiritual life?
4. God's wrath is often thought of as future judgment. But in verse 18 Paul states that God's wrath is now being revealed. How is this evident from these verses (vv. 24-32)?
5. How can God's allowing fallen man to have his own way be a form of punishment?
6. How would you define "sin"?
7. How does moral desecration reach its depths (v. 32)?
8. How would Paul respond to the very American statement that, "People are basically good?"
9. Some ask, "How could God condemn those who have never heard of him?" How is this question answered?

The Responsibility of Privilege

1. Why does the one who judges “have no excuse” (vv. 1-2)? How is it that the one who judges others for doing what one is doing oneself supposes he or she will escape the judgment of God (v. 3)
2. What is Paul saying in verse 4? To whom do these words apply? Why is this verse so important for understanding the life to which we are called?
3. Why should you not judge the sins of others? What principles should be applied when you suspect something is wrong in the life of another Christians? See Matthew 5:23-24 and Galatians 6:1-5.
4. What does a “hard and impenitent” heart produce (vv. 5)? What does it mean to say that one is “storing up wrath” for oneself on the day of wrath?
5. When Paul writes in verse 6 that God “will render to each one according to his works,” what does that mean? By what standard will God judge us (vv. 7-11)? But ... does this apply to Christians, too?
6. What standard does God apply when he judges those who know his law and those who do not (vv. 12-16)? What is to be the relationship between God’s judgment and his Law? Why does Paul need to say what he says in v. 13? Does it still need saying today?
7. In what ways does God’s judgment differ from man’s judgment (see especially vv. 11 and 16)?
8. What claims do the Jews make (vv. 17-24)? Are they wrong to affirm the benefits of the Law (as set forth in vv. 19-20)? What then is the problem? What charge is brought against the Jews?
9. If verses 17-24 were written to our church, what changes would Paul make?
10. The Jews placed great emphasis on circumcision because it was the visible sign that they were God’s people (vv. 25-29). How have some confused the sign with what it signifies? How might Christians today have a similar misunderstanding about religious rituals or practices?
11. Upon what does an outward religious ritual such as circumcision depend? See Deuteronomy 10:16.
12. Why is self-righteousness, regardless of its form, of no value?
13. Summarize the nature and condition of all mankind, as set forth in this entire section of Romans (1:18-2:29).