

The Book Of Romans
Reasons For The Wrath Of God Part 1c
Session 16

Romans 1:18-22 (NASB)

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,

Last week we were studying the content of God's Revelation; and we said that there was so much that it would be hard to put into a book as it would be so big the world could not contain it.

We want to continue to look at this before going on to the next which is man's rejection of the revelation.

Again let's take some time to look at the content;

The Psalmist wrote;

Psalm 19:1-8 (NASB)

¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

² Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

⁶ Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

"the heavens are telling the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."

With giant telescopes such as the 200 inch-diameter instrument at Mount Palomar in California astronomers can observe objects 4 billion light years away, a distance of more than 25 septillion miles! (James Reid, *God, the Atom, and the universe* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan], 1968).

At any given time, there are an average of 1,800 storms in operation in the world.

The energy needed to generate those storms amounts to the incredible figure of 1,300,000,000 horsepower.

By comparison, a large earth moving machine has 420 horsepower and requires a hundred gallons of fuel a day to operate.

Just one of those storms, producing rain of four inches over an area of ten thousand square miles, would require energy equivalent to the burning of 640,000,000 tons of coal to evaporate enough water for such a rain.

And to cool those vapors and collect them in clouds would take another 800,000,000 horsepower of refrigeration working night and day for a hundred days.

Agricultural studies have determined that the average farmer in Minnesota gets 407,510 gallons of rain water per acre per year, free of charge, of course.

The state of Missouri has some 70,000 square miles and averages 38 inches of rain a year. That amount of water is equal to a lake 250 miles long, 60 miles wide, and 22 feet deep.

The U.S. Natural Museum has determined that there are at least 10 million species of insects, including some 2,500 varieties of ants.

There are about 5 billion birds in the United States, among which some species are able to fly 500 miles non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico.

Mallard ducks can fly 60 miles an hour, eagles 100 miles an hour, and falcons can dive at speeds of 180 miles an hour.

The earth is 25,000 miles in circumference, weighs 6 septillion, 588 sextillion tons, and hangs unsupported in space. It spins at 1,000 miles per hour with absolute precision and careens through space around the sun at the speed of 1,000 miles per minute in an orbit 580 million miles long.

The head of a comet may be from 10,000 to 1,000,000 miles long, have a tail 100,000,000 miles long, and travel at a speed of 350 miles per second.

If the sun's radiated energy could be converted into horsepower, it would be the equivalent of 500 million, million, billion horsepower.

Each second it consumes some 4 million tons of matter

To travel at the speed of light (ca. 186,281 miles per second) across the Milky Way, the galaxy in which our solar system is located, would take 125,000 years. And our galaxy is but one of millions.

Now let's take the heart of man. The human heart is about the size of its owner's fist.

An adult heart weighs less than half a pound, yet can do enough work in twelve hours to lift 65 tons one inch off the ground.

A water molecule is composed of only three atoms. But if all the molecules in one drop of water were the size of a grain of sand, they could make a road one foot thick and a half mile wide that would stretch from Los Angeles to New York. Amazingly, however, the atom itself is largely space, its actual matter taking up only one trillionth of its volume.

Now listen, except to a mind willfully closed to the obvious, it is inconceivable that such power, intricacy, and harmony could have developed by any means but that of a Master Designer who rules the universe.

It would be infinitely more reasonable to think that the separate pieces of a watch could be shaken in a bag and eventually become a dependable timepiece than to think that the world could have evolved into its present state by blind chance.

Even the pagan should be able to discern with the Psalmist that surely the One who made the ear and the eye is Himself able to hear and to see.

Psalm 94:9 (NASB)

⁹ He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?

If we can hear, then whoever made us surely must understand hearing and seeing.

If we, His creatures, can think, then surely the mind of our Creator must be able to reason.

Men are judged and sent to hell not because they do not live up to the light evidenced in the universe but because ultimately that rejection leads them to reject Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit will;

John 16:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;*

⁹ *concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;*

If a person lives up to the light of the revelation he has, God will provide for his hearing the gospel by some means or another.

In His sovereign, predetermined grace He reaches out to sinful mankind.

Ezekiel 33:11a (NASB)

¹¹ *"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.*

God does not desire that any should perish;

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

He will give His elect the privilege of hearing the gospel and will bring them to Himself.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NASB)

¹³ *~"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Remember the Ethiopian eunuch? When he was sincerely seeking God, the Holy Spirit sent Philip to witness to him. Upon hearing the gospel, he believed and was baptized (**Acts 8:26-39**)

Because Cornelius, a Gentile centurion in the Roman army, was a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually, God sent Peter to him to explain the gospel.

Acts 10:2 (NASB)

² *a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.*

Acts 10:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴ *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.*

Acts 10:48 (NASB)

⁴⁸ *And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

You remember Lydia? Well because she was a true worshiper of God, when Paul was speaking,

Acts 16:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ *A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*

Folks, all mankind has no excuse, if they reject the light given them and seek no further to find God and all that He has provided.

Yet it is within man to reject God and all the evidences given, because of our love of sin.

John 3:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

Yet Christ was given:

Luke 1:79 (KJV)

⁷⁹ To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

God voluntarily, as a gift, gives us revelation of Himself. He has revealed His invisible attributes and made the visible to all mankind. What a wonderful gift.

And in that gift we find numerous content for us to see and investigate that would motivate our hearts to seek Him and in the seeking to find Him.

TO WHOEVER FINDS THIS...I LOVE YOU

Several years ago there was a girl in an orphanage. She was unattractive and had mannerisms that were not very attractive either, and so she was disliked and shunned by the other children and was not liked by her teachers. The head of the institution looked for a reason to send her off to some other place.

One afternoon the opportunity came. She was suspected of writing unapproved, illicit notes to someone outside the institution. One of the little girls had just reported, "I saw her write a note and hide it on a tree near the stone wall."

The superintendent hurried to the tree and found the note. He then passed it silently to his assistant. The note read, "To whoever finds this, I love you."

In essence, someone else also wrote a note and put it on a tree outside a city wall at another place a long time ago. Of him, too, it was written "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men" Isaiah 53:2, 3, NIV.

They sought to get rid of Jesus. They took him out to Calvary's hill where they crucified him. They nailed him to a tree. But when men get there, they find a note on that tree that reads, "To whoever finds this, I love you."

IT ALL STARTED BY ONE MAN WANTING TO PRAY

In 1857 there was a 46 year old man named Jeremiah Lamphere who lived in New York City. Jeremiah loved the Lord tremendously, but he didn't feel that he could do much for the Lord until he began to feel a burden for the lost and accepted an invitation from his church to be an inner city missionary.

So in July of 1857 he started walking up and down the streets of New York passing out tracts and talking to people about Jesus, but he wasn't having any success. Then God put it on his heart to try prayer. So he printed up a bunch of tracts, and he passed them out to anyone and everyone met. He invited anyone who wanted to come to the 3rd floor of the Old North Dutch Reform Church on Fulton St. in New York City from 12 to 1 on Wednesday to pray. He passed out hundreds and hundreds of fliers and put up posters everywhere he could.

Wednesday came and at noon nobody showed up. So Jeremiah got on his knees and started praying. For 30 minutes he prayed by himself when finally five other people walked in. The next week 20 people came. The next week between 30 and 40 people came. They then decided to meet every day from 12:00 to 1:00 to pray for the city.

Before long a few ministers started coming and they said, "We need to start this at our churches." Within six months there were over 5000 prayer groups meeting every day in N.Y. Soon the word spread all over the country. Prayer meetings were started in Philadelphia, Detroit, and Washington D.C. In fact President Franklin Pierce started going almost every day to a noontime prayer meeting. By 1859 some 15,000 cities in America were having downtown prayer meetings every day at noon, and thousands were brought to Christ.

The great thing about this revival is that there is not a famous preacher associated with it. It was all started by one man wanting to pray. People have been seeking God, and seeking a relationship with God through Jesus Christ for centuries.