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Romans

...because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. Romans 1:19

To ensure continuity, here is the entire thought – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

“Because” then is speaking of what was said in verse 18. “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against these things...because what may be known of God is manifest in them.”

Paul is speaking about God’s general revelation of Himself to humanity. The creation displays the Creator, even if only in a general sense. And this display confirms His glory, His wisdom, and His divine attributes (as will be noted in verse 20). What we see about God is completely evident and absolutely unmistakable.

Many passages in the Bible confirm what Paul is saying here. David understood God’s manifestation through the created order when he penned the 19th Psalm –

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. (vss. 1-3 NIV)

If a man born 2700 hundred years ago as a shepherd and who became a military leader can figure this out, then anyone else can too. David had no training in philosophy or theology and yet he opened his eyes and looked up and saw the wisdom and glory of God in what He has created.

With only with God's general revelation of Himself man has deduced that there must have been a beginning to the creation and thus there must have been a Beginner. If nothing else condemns us, this thought alone would be sufficient. If there was nothing and then there was something, then everything that is came from the intelligence of God. And not only that, it must continue to be sustained by Him from moment to moment. Philosophers, Christian and non-Christian alike, have figured this out.

The Bible clearly speaks of these things, and it does so in detail. Therefore, even if it weren't the word of God, it would still prove that these concepts can be deduced – because they are recorded in its pages. The human mind has the ability to grasp such ideas and to ponder them, but instead we shrug such hints about Him off and fill our time with the useless pursuits of life. And not only this, but we actively suppress the knowledge of Him because we want to work out our impulses which we know are contrary to the nature of this Creator.

This active suppression of the knowledge of God is reason enough for His wrath to be poured out. In the end when humanity stands before Him in judgment, there will be no excuses for our neglect of pursuing Him.

Life application: As Christians, we accept that the Bible is God's revealed word and thus His special revelation of Himself. We also then implicitly acknowledge that He has made Himself manifest through His creation in a general way.

Because we make this acknowledgment, then aren't we doubly responsible for searching Him out and reflecting what we know to be true about Him? If the lost will be condemned for suppressing such truth merely from general revelation, then how much more should we be judged for not pursuing knowledge of Him through His word and through His creation? Let us be diligent in our pursuit of our God!