

## Paul's Declaration of the state of Man outside Christ

### Romans 1:15-32

#### Preface

Recently, I, along with some of my Reformed brothers, have been engaged in disputation with some of our “ Roman Catholic *friends* ” over their religious practices and why we, as Reformed Christians, cannot consider them to be true members of the Body of Jesus Christ.

As a means, or litmus test, to determine our belief, I will briefly illustrate where we are to know who true Christians are.

Starting in verse 15 of the first chapter of Romans, we read...

(KJV)

***Romans 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.***

***Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

***Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.***

***Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;***

***Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.***

***Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

***Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

***Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,***

***Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.***

***Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:***

***Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.***

***Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:***

***Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.***

***Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,***

***Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:***

***Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

Now that we have established the context of state of the natural man, who is outside of Jesus Christ, I will begin the exegesis.

In verse 15, we see that the Apostle is establishing to whom this message is going toward... the people of ROME.

***Romans 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you also that are in Rome.(ASV)***

I have heard personally, preachers using this text to falsely establish that these words were meant to describe Jews, specifically, the Nation of Israel. This could not be further than the truth. To the regenerate mind, this clearly and completely, describes the state of fallen man in his sin nature.

Verses 16-17

***Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous (just) shall live by faith. (ASV)***

Paul tells us that he is not ashamed to say what he is about to say. Both Jew and Greek (all types, not just Jews and Greeks) have revealed to them, the righteousness of God. As it is written, “the just shall live by faith”.

Not works. Not by choice (free-will decision). It is a gift of God.

## **Doctrine**

Unregenerate men, outside of Christ, outside the regeneration process, cannot be true Christians.

Here are translations of verse 18 so that the reader (listener, for those listening on Sermon Audio) can firmly grasp what is being said.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Romans%201%3A18>

### **KJ21**

For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness,

### **ASV**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness;

### **AMP**

For [God does not overlook sin and] the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who in their wickedness suppress and stifle the truth,

### **AMPC**

For God's [holy] wrath and indignation are revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who in their wickedness repress and hinder the truth and make it inoperative.

### **BRG**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

### **CEB**

God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodly behavior and the injustice of human beings who silence the truth with injustice.

CJB

What is revealed is God's anger from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who in their wickedness keep suppressing the truth;

CEV

From heaven God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth.

DARBY

For there is revealed wrath of God from heaven upon all impiety, and unrighteousness of men holding the truth in unrighteousness.

DLNT

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people holding-down the truth in unrighteousness.

DRA

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of those men that detain the truth of God in injustice:

ERV

God shows his anger from heaven against all the evil and wrong things that people do. Their evil lives hide the truth they have.

ESV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

ESVUK

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

EXB

[L For] God's ·anger [wrath; retribution] is ·shown [being revealed] from heaven against all the ·evil [ungodly] and ·wrong [wicked; unrighteous] things people do. By their ·own evil lives [wickedness; unrighteousness] they ·hide [suppress] the truth.

GNV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness of men, which withhold the truth in unrighteousness.

GW

God's anger is revealed from heaven against every ungodly and immoral thing people do as they try to suppress the truth by their immoral living.

GNT

God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known.

## HCSB

For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,

## ICB

God's anger is shown from heaven against all the evil and wrong things that people do. By their own evil lives they hide the truth.

## ISV

For God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and wickedness of those who in their wickedness suppress the truth.

## PHILLIPS

Now the holy anger of God is disclosed from Heaven against the godlessness and evil of those men who render truth dumb and inoperative by their wickedness. It is not that they do not know the truth about God; indeed he has made it quite plain to them. For since the beginning of the world the invisible attributes of God, e.g. his eternal power and divinity, have been plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known, thus leaving these men without a rag of excuse. They knew all the time that there is a God, yet they refused to acknowledge him as such, or to thank him for what he is or does. Thus they became fatuous in their argumentations, and plunged their silly minds still further into the dark.

## JUB

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of men, who hold back the truth with injustice;

KJV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

AKJV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

LEB

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all impiety and unrighteousness of people, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

TLB

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, evil men who push away the truth from them.

MSG

But God's angry displeasure erupts as acts of human mistrust and wrongdoing and lying accumulate, as people try to put a shroud over truth. But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse. What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.

#### MEV

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth through unrighteousness.

#### MOUNCE

For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and the unrighteousness of those who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness,

#### NOG

God's anger is revealed from heaven against every ungodly and immoral thing people do as they try to suppress the truth by their immoral living.

#### NABRE

The wrath of God is indeed being revealed from heaven against every impiety and wickedness of those who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

#### NASB

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

#### NCV

God's anger is shown from heaven against all the evil and wrong things people do. By their own evil lives they hide the truth.



NET

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness,

NIRV

God shows his anger from heaven. It is against all the godless and evil things people do. They are so evil that they say no to the truth.

NIV

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

NIVUK

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

NKJV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

NLV

We see the anger of God coming down from heaven against all the sins of men. These sinful men keep the truth from being known.

NLT

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

NRSV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

NRSVA

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

NRSVACE

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

NRSVCE

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

OJB

For the Charon Af Hashem (the burning anger of G-d Ro 1:18; 2:8; 3:5; 4:15; 5:9; 9:22; 12:19; 13:4) is being revealed from Shomayim. It is being revealed against all without yirat Shomayim and Tzedek, all bnei Adam who wickedly repress HaEmes [of Hashem],

RSV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

RSVCE

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

TLV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. In unrighteousness they suppress the truth,

VOICE

For the wrath of God is breaking through from heaven, opposing all manifestations of ungodliness and wickedness by the people who do wrong to keep God's truth in check.

WEB

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

WE

God is angry. He has shown it from heaven. He is angry because of all the bad and wrong things people do. These people hold back God's truth by the wrong things they do.

WYC

For the wrath of God is showed from heaven on all unpiety and wickedness of those men, that withhold the truth of God in unrightwiseness. [Forsooth the wrath of God is showed from heaven upon all unpiety and unrightwiseness of those men, that withhold, or hold aback, the truth of God in unrightwiseness.]

YLT

for revealed is the wrath of God from heaven upon all impiety and unrighteousness of men, holding down the truth in unrighteousness.

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Romans%201%3A18>)

The understanding here is, that men suppress the truth in unrighteousness. The cause being, that the wrath of God is upon them and that they are indeed, dead in their sin nature.

Verses 19-23 tell us how and why this is;

***Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.***

***Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

***Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

***Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,***

***Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.***

The remainder of the chapter is a laundry list of perversions that are a result... to sum it up in one word; liberalism.

***Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:***

***Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.***

***Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (here is lesbianism)***

***Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet (necessary). (homosexuality)***

***Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,***

***Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:***

***Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

The evidence here should be enough even for the unregenerate to be able to cry out “What must I do to be saved”?

Here, brethren, is your sword to use to cut through the lies spun by Roman Catholicism and every other profession that is not True Christianity.

May the Lord bless and preserve you.