

dwell where he is.

Somehow, Abraham was shown the end result of his faith, and he refused to get sidetracked from what he was show.

John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

(Read all of Psalms 48)

1 «A Song and Psalm for the sons of Korah.» *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.* Read all of this psalm.

Zion in the OT primarily used for physical Jerusalem because that was the physical seat of the kingdom of God on earth. However, in both Testaments, Zion or Sion is used for the spiritual or heavenly Jerusalem, where God dwells.

Psalms 50:2, Mat 21:15, John 12:15, Heb 12:22, Rev 14:1

By faith, the saints of old knew they would be in that heavenly city where God dwells, so they refused to see this world as their home. Rather, it was their temporary dwelling place. That faith is also worked out in the lives of the rest of the saints listed in Hebrews 11.

The redeemed are the seed of Abraham, and are heir to his promise which is fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Apl 4, 2019

Romans 1:19-21. Lesson 10

It is the joy of any teacher or preacher to have young men who sincerely and generally desire to be instructed in the strong meat of the word of God so they can properly lead their families, their churches and their communities in godliness. I have found very few Christians really hungry for strong meat. However, those who are on my mailing list subscribe because they want strong meat.

We will not review, for the mp3s and pdf notes are posted on sermonaudio.com/providence. These lessons can be downloaded. Lesson 9 has been downloaded 28 times thus far, and the lessons are e mailed 71 people who have requested them.

I find it exciting that people want serious in-depth study.

Those who know me know that I many times say much more than is needed.

Chad requested we study Romans. He could not have requested a more difficult book. I warned him this would not be a simple study, and it will not hold the attention of those who want a simple study in just basic Christian doctrine. Romans contains many things that, in Peter's words, are hard to be understood.

2 Peter 3:16 *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

Many things in Romans can be and are wrested from their context, and lead many to destruction. All I can do is give the best of my understanding, and you all must study to see if these things be true.

Romans: One can check with a dozen commentators, and get a dozen answers for various subjects.

Before we go on, we need to go back to 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;*

I missed one of the most obvious illustrations of God's wrath from heaven.

The promise of God's revealed wrath is found in places like Deuteronomy 28, particularly vv. 47-50

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; 48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee. 49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; 50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

Numerous times, he told his people he would send pagan nations against his rebellious people to judge them for their wickedness. He sent Assyria, Babylon, and finally, he sent Rome as the final and total judgment against apostate Israel. That final and annihilating judgment was prophesied by our Lord in Matthew 24. The ancient nation of Israel was then erased from history, and was replaced by the new Israel of God, the Gospel Church. Galatians 6.

Only the foolish can imagine that God does not do such things in our "age of grace." Suppression of the truth will continue to call down the wrath of God against all unrighteousness and ungodliness.

The *wrath of God* **includes universal wrath against both saved and unsaved**, for it rains on the just and on the unjust.

Wrath from heaven is seen today in the horrendous turmoil of nature. World-wide, man is at war against God, so God's nature is at war against man, as promised in Deuteronomy 28.

Romans 1:19-32

V. 19 tells us that even the pagans have a knowledge of God, for they, like all men, are made in the image of God. All men everywhere have a desire to worship a god. Either they will worship the God who is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, or they will worship a god after their own imagination, which includes worshiping themselves as god in the religion known as Humanism.

It is amazing and sad how many of those imaginative modes of worship require suffering, pain, and blood, even human blood.

It is a gory thought for those of us who realize that Christ endured the pain for our sins. Self-flagellation for one's sin is common throughout the world. The Roman Catholics in the Philippines are probably the most given to this evil practice.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-religion-easter-philippines/catholics-in-philippines-mark-holy-week-with-self-flagellation-ritual-idUSKCN0WQ28V> ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcCA6lGxK_g

If you watch the youtube video, we can see the men inflicting upon themselves what was inflicted upon Christ in our place.

The Church of Rome, rather than preaching Christian conversion in places like the Philippines, convinced the pagan worshipers that they could continue their pagan rites and rituals in the name of Christianity, as long as they united with the Roman church. Rome was and is more interested in numbers, power and riches than it is in the souls of men. Rome is by no means unique in adopting paganism, even bloody paganism, in order to increase its influence.

(Humanism is taught in every state and private education systems, with extremely few exceptions. Humanism teaches to worship of the self-god.)

Men such as Einstein realized there was a God. However, being a Jew, he did not recognize his god as the Christian God who became a man in order to redeem man from the kingdom of Satan.

V. 17. Paul is building on one of the key passages of the Old Testament,

Habakkuk 2: 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

As we saw in Hebrews 11, faith means stability, faithfulness to what is revealed in the Word of God. The apposite of living by faith is living by sight, or according to one's own understanding. "Follow your heart" is the religious theme of our day.

We dealt with faith from Hebrews 11 last time, so no need to replough that ground today.

In v. 19, Paul starts listing unrighteous actions that bring down God's wrath from heaven. In v. 21, he starts listing the marks along the broad path to destruction. The final destination is listed in vv. 27-31.

Man is a fallen sinner; he is totally depraved. That is, every area of his being is fallen, and his every area is at war with God his Creator. Fallen man is capable of anything. The abortion industry brings that fact home.

We need to pray for those who are making movies that show the truth about the unbelievable evil of the abortion industry. Also, that they will have outlets in major markets for their movies. Note that a movie such as "Unplanned" does not beat the hearer over the head with the bible. They simply reveal truth, and depend on the Spirit to use that truth to change hearts.

Genesis 11:6 *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

We are again at that point in history as the vile imaginations of fallen men run wild. In our wildest imagination, we cannot comprehend what is being done in the name of money in the terms of experiments on babies, human trafficking, the sex trade, and even young women are being forced to conceive, and the babies are sold on the black market.

As we saw last time with Abraham, no man has the strength in himself for good and salvation. God did not come to strengthen the sinner so he could be a better person, and good enough to meet his Creator.

Rather, Christ came to provide his righteousness through faith which frees from the binding power of sin, which

is a major theme of Romans.

Vv. 19ff. gives the justification for God's wrath against all unrighteousness.

2:13 *(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

Paul tells us that that at creation, God wrote his law in the hearts of all men. So, no matter how hard man tries, he cannot erase it. Man was made in the image of God, and he has the built-in basic understanding of God and his requirements upon men.

But the natural man willfully suppresses the knowledge of God; he forces it down and out of his mind. Some are more successful at suppressing that knowledge of God than are others. Only the Spirit can remove that suppression.

V. 20, not only is the knowledge of God written in the heart from Creation, but God's glory is seen in all his creation.

At creation, I believe Gods showed Adam the heavens and explained the gospel to him from the stars.

Psalms 19:1 «To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.» The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

I have a book, “*The Witness of the Stars*” that names the twelve constellation and how they preach the gospel. It also names the major stars in those constellations, and gives the meaning of those names. The names clearly show that the gospel was written in the heavens.

Romans 10:18 *(But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.)* as well as Psalms 19:1-6 and many other scriptures speak of the gospel written in the heavens. Many names of stars still survive to this day that point to Christ and the gospel.

The constellation ORION (name means, "He who cometh forth as light, the brilliant one"), has one of the brightest stars in the heavens in it. This star in Orion is Betelgeuse and is a major navigation star. The name means, "The branch coming." There are still hundreds of names surviving on all star navigation maps. Those names point to God the Creator and his Son Jesus Christ. (See Job 9:9, 38:31.)

V. 20, Those who want to understand about the God they see in creation, will find that understanding. Paul is clear, so they are without excuse.

We may ask, “How will they be made to understand?” All we can do is ask Paul.

But we do see some exciting and encouraging things going on around us:

Iranians Are Converting To Evangelical Christianity In Turkey. “... "The numbers of Iranian refugees converting have grown tremendously over the years. A small church consisting of 20 to 30 families has become

a much bigger congregation housing 80 to 100 people on a regular Sunday,"

[<https://www.npr.org/2018/12/14/669662264/iranians-are-converting-to-evangelical-christianity-in-turkey>

Morethandreams.org produced a video that shows how Isa, Jesus, is appearing in supernatural ways to Muslims. The visions do not preach the gospel, but the individual is told where to go or what to do in order to hear the gospel.

V. 18, fallen man does not know because he does not want to know. He has blanked God out. He has willingly suppressed the knowledge of God. Fallen man does not want a God he cannot control, one to whom he must answer. Man wants to be his own god, and he does not want competition in his own godhood.

It is interesting that God never justifies his existence.

V. 21, *Because when they knew God they glorified him not as God.*

Three times we read that God gave them up... **Name the three things**

1. V. 24, to uncleanness...

2. V. 26, to vile affections...

3. V. 28, to a reprobate mind... (Rejected, cast away by the Lord because it is worthless. Jeremiah 6:30 Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.)

We will develop the three various Biblical implications as we get to them.

Observe:

First, man is totally corrupt. That is, every area of fallen man is corrupt, and he has no natural desire to deal with that corruption.

Second, though man is totally corrupt, he does not act on that total corruption.

Third, the reason he does not become totally corrupt in all his actions is because God restrains him.

Psalms 76:10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

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