

## IS GOD ANGRY WITH MAN?

Last week I was standing out front and someone came up and gave me a sticker that said God is love and when we share the Gospel most of us would start out by sharing, God loves you and that why he sent His Son to die for you. What would you say if I told you that God is angry with man? What would you say to that? This morning we are going to be looking at Romans 1: 14-32 where we will see the answer.

But first I would like to give you a little background on Romans. The apostle Paul is the author of this book and he was writing to the believers in Rome. He was writing to them because he had heard of their faith in Christ. In fact their faith in Christ was known throughout the world. Paul wanted to go to them to be an encouragement to them and to be encouraged by them, to be able to lead others to Christ, to preach the Gospel which he longed to do. Lets start by reading Romans 1:14&15

**Romans 1:14-15 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.**

This is an amazing statement that Paul was eager to preach the Gospel. If you know a little of apostle Paul's history he was a Jewish Pharisee working his way up the food chain of the Pharisee ladder. Paul despised Christians killing them, having them put in prison, beating them. Paul was one of the leaders in the persecution of the Church.

In fact on the day that Christ came to Paul, Paul was on his way to the synagogues at Damascus. On his way any Christian that he found He put in chains to take to Damascus to persecute them. Paul was given permission by the high priest to do so. When Christ came to Paul and said why do you persecute me. It was at that point Christ revealed Himself to Paul and Paul's life was changed forever.

The Gospel Paul tried so desperately destroy is now the Gospel he is so eager to preach without shame to both Jews and gentiles. So when we read Romans 1:16-17 we can see how Paul's life changed. He went from persecuting Christians to being obligated to tell people about Christ.

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Not only was Paul obligated to share the Gospel. He was not ashamed of the Gospel. Why would he be ashamed of the gospel? He new the truth, but if you know a little of the culture of the time it might cause one to question. There was no special appreciation for the Jews in Rome and the gospel was identified with a poor Jewish carpenter who was crucified. This was the lowest form of execution of a criminal. That carpenter came from a little nation Isreal, that Rome had conquered.

Most who were coming to Christ at that time were not the elite, but were the common people and slaves. Why would the Romans look to a Jewish tent maker as someone who could have any kind of authority? In the days of the Romans when Caesar sent out a message it was given immediate attention. So why would the Romans pay any attention to what a Jewish carpenter had to say? These are the questions the Romans were asking themselves.

But Paul new the truth as he said in Romans 1:1 he calls it the gospel of God. He had seen the risen Christ. He had seen how the Gospel had changed his life and the transforming power of the Gospel. He saw how he went from one who had killed Christians to one who wanted to tell people about Christ and its transforming power. Why would he be ashamed of that? Paul knew, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek

So what does the Jews and The Gentiles need to be saved from? Here is where the answer may surprise you. Look at Romans 1:18-25

**Romans 1:18-25** 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

This is what Jews and Gentile need to be saved from

19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

A. God is really angry with man because God has made Himself plain to man.

Man has no excuse for not knowing God because He has revealed Himself throughout all creation. Let me read Psalm 19 1-6

**Psalm 19:1-6** 1To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, 5which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 6Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The heavens have declared His glory. Have you ever thought how the sun is the perfect distance from the earth to keep the earth from not getting too hot or too cold? Let me read you an article from ICR. [Read] There are many articles like this that would point to God the creator. It seems so easy to see and yet man can look around at all these statements and still deny His creation.

All man has to do is look around and God's handiwork is everywhere. God has declared Himself in all creation. God has made it plain to man through His creation through His nature for all the world to see. His creation is the road sign, that God has given man to know that they should worship Him. **All God's attributes** should be clear to man through His creation, like **His power, His perfection, His holiness**. But man is suppressing the truth for a lie. Do you remember the movie Expelled there was a man interviewed in it by the name of Richard Dawkins he is one of the leading voices for evolution. In his new book the Greatest Show on Earth he writes. Read article

He wants people to believe that evolution is a fact. Even though the fossil record is incomplete. Listen to what is written about Dawkins book in another article.(read.) He uses the fossil record to prove evolution, even though it is incomplete, he says it does not matter. They can't prove it with evidence but many believe this lie including many who say they believe in God. Listen to what is written by Brian Thomas about evolution embedded in American thought(read)

Evolution is being indoctrinated in our minds without proof and yet the evidences of God are all around us. **Stop and think about everything in this world in which we live, and the life that exists, how can man question there is a God**. But man does. In fact man rejects God even though God doesn't reject man. That's why God sent His Son to die for man's unrighteousness. But God is still angry with man

B. Why does man refuse to honor and give thanks to God

Why has man with all the evidence around him rejected God? Why does man reject the eternal God which has no beginning or end, the immortal for the mortal?

Think about it, man has become futile in their thinking and foolish in their hearts. Man has chosen to reject God, to look past the evidence around him and look to himself as a god. Man has turned his back on what God has created looking past all the evidence of creation. If you think it through, if man admits there is a god then it would mean that they would have to submit to Him. It seems only fitting that God would have some standards to live by. Man wants to be his own god with no rule or anyone telling him what to do.

Listen to what well known atheist author Christopher Hitchen writes in his book, God is not Great. Read first example. He says that religious faith is wishful thinking and later in the book he writes (read second example). He claims those who believe in the devine is stupidity. Why do people believe this, over looking what God has made plain?

In this day and age people want to believe there is no absolute standard so they can do whatever they want. We see that even in some churches today. They are letting our culture shape their standards instead of the Bible. They want to worship the mortal instead of the immortal. In the denial of God man has rejected God and surpressed the truth. This is why God is angry with man. God says if you are going to deny Me I'm going to let you do what ever you what.

Man's been allowed to follow his own desires without any limitations. Dallas Willard writes in his book Renovation of the Heart, now when the light of fundamental truth and reality, GOD, is put out in the heart and soul, the intellect becomes dysfunctional, trying to devise a "truth" that will be compatible with the basic falsehood that man is god. Man wants to become his own god and that allows him to do anything the mind can imagine without limitation. When man denies the creator its no holes bared nothing to fear.

But what does Gods word say about fear of God? Let me read Proverbs 9:10

**Proverbs 9:10<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Mans lack of fear of God is also denying His power His wisdom. Its not that man is supposed to be afraid of God, but it's like electricity. It supplies us with power to run things like lights, appliances, or tools, but if you don't respect it or have a respectful fear of it, the misuse of it could kill you. It show wisdom and insight knowing electricity can harm you if it is misused. That's the type of fear man should have for God. A reverent fear, respectful. But man has chosen to deny God so how can you fear or respect something you don't think exists? By denying God thinking they are smart, in the end the are stupid. Man lacks Gods wisdom and insight of Gods power. For mans lack of fear of God, God gives them over to their own lusts.

C. Gods anger is revealed to man for dening Him

So what we have is man claiming to have all the smarts and he's the one made out to be the fool lacking wisdom. Because man gave up and rejected God and all the evidence of God. Claiming to be wise he became the fool. Exchanging the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man. The reward for doing this, dening God is the good life in mans eyes.Look with me at Romans 1:24-27

**Romans 1:24-27** 24Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup>and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

When man chooses to suppress the truth about God, man needs to fill the gap with something. As it turns out it seems to be the body. Dallas Willard also writes, **the human body becomes the primary area of pleasure for the person who does not live honestly and interactively with God.** God lets man exchange what is natural and holy, pure and perfect for what is unnatural and unholy and imperfect. For those who have denied God, they think they are living the good life, with no limitations.

Man has chosen to look past the truth about God, not worshiping God but worshiping his own body instead, exchanging the truth for a lie, God has given them over to the lust and the passions of their own desires. Man is exchanging natural relations for what goes against nature. Do we ever see male animals have sex with another male animal? **No it is unnatural.** That's what God means when He says man goes against nature. It is a perversion of the truth and man will pay a price for this error. Let me read you some statistics for those who choose the homosexual life. Read examples

This is what living a life void of God can get you. I also remember being at a talk that Miles McPherson gave at the Ramona middle school a few years back, He was telling the audience go ahead and live the good life go out and do as many and as much drugs and alcohol as you want, go have sex with who ever you want live the good life, a life void of God and see where it gets you. He said I can tell you where it will get you **it will leave you empty and void unsatisfied still trying to fill that void that only God can satisfy.** There is never any peace

You see when man exchanged the truth for a lie. He became foolish. People have found all kinds of things to worship from money and things, to statues of all different kinds. What they get is nothing that can ever satisfy and emptiness.

Paul writes receiving in themselves the due penalty. I think he is saying they know what they are doing goes against nature and there will never be peace. It will never satisfy. So they will always be looking for something else. They have followed their own desires and rejecting Gods truth for a lie, God also gave man over to a corrupt mind. Let's look at the rest of the passage. Romans 1: 28-32

<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

They do not acknowledge God and for that God gives man over to a mind that has no standards, a mind that is corrupt. What we have is chaos there is really no standard in which to live by. Whatever one believes to be true is true and that leaves us a world filled with all these attributes that we just read in verses 29-30. The only standard is what man thinks is ok.

What we tend to believe is that God is angry about sin but that's not the core of what has angered God. It's that man has suppressed the truth about Him and worship the creation rather than Him. The results of man suppressing the truth is man has angered God and God has given man over to his own lust and a mind that allows him to do what ever he want.

But even though God is angry with man for rejecting Him, He still loves man, and we see that through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God revealed His love for man through the shed blood of Christ. God wants man to acknowledge Him. He wants man to escape His wrath, but that only comes through faith in His Son.

Until man realizes he is a sinner he will never be able to appreciate the Gospel. He will always be seeking after what will never satisfy. There will always be emptiness. If you haven't trusted in Christ and you look at the world around us that has rejected God, are things better or worse? If the answer is worse, what's stopping you from trusting in Christ? The evidence is all around you. God is the creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

So how do you escape the wrath of God? Romans 6:23 says

**Romans 6:23<sup>23</sup>**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Death is eternal separation from God void of Him in your life, but that's not what God wants for man and He has given man plenty of evidence to know Him. If you haven't trusted in Christ what holding you back? God has made it clear from His creation for all to see that He is the creator. Are you going to continue to believe the lie? God is angry with man for suppressing the truth. Just because God is angry with man, it does not mean He doesn't love Man because as we read in John 3:16

**John 3:16<sup>16</sup>**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

You make the choice the truth or a lie.

For the believer what can we take from this message? Hopefully your faith in God has been increased by the examples given this morning, of God the creator.

That God is angry with man for man suppressing the truth for a lie. As believer we know the truth, like the apostle Paul we should not be ashamed of the Gospel.

God hates all unrighteousness. He does not want us to suppress His truth for what our culture says is truth. We should not be conformed to our culture. Don't believe what the world says unless it is in line with God and His nature.

All people are redeemable just look at the apostle Paul and who he was before he came to Christ.

As I close, when I started my study of the book of Romans, I was asking myself the question. If Gods is love and He created us why is there so much chaos in the world? This passage gives me the answer and I hope it does you. Because man has suppressed the truth about God and exchanged it for a lie, and for that God has turn Man over to their own lust. So this is why the world is as it is.