

Potomac Hills Community Church, PCA

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September 26, 2004

“The Grace of God in the Gospel”

A Series on Romans

Romans 1.18-20, “The Apocalypse of God”

I GOD’S WRATH IS REVEALED.

A. His righteousness is revealed in the gospel.

1. It is revealed in the gospel (verses 16-17).
2. It is revealed from faith (God) to faith (our faith as His gift).

B. His wrath is revealed.

1. It is revealed from heaven.
 - a) Wrath is from a word which means to stretch oneself; to reach out; to desire.
 - b) It is therefore violent passion or anger.
 - c) It is **NOT** anger such as we have
 - 1) It is Divine displeasure against sin.
 - 2) It is Divine indignation against disorder and disobedience.

Barnes’ Notes: “We admire the character of a ruler who is opposed to all crime in the community, and who expresses those feelings in the laws. And the more he is opposed to vice and crime, the more we admire his character and his laws; and why shall we not be equally pleased with God, who is opposed to all crime in all parts of the universe.”

2. His wrath is revealed in His Law.
 - a) **Galatians 3:19:** Paul teaches that the Law was added because of our transgressions.
 - b) God’s Law teaches us what God is like (holy, holy, holy) and what He expects of us (absolute obedience).

c) It also teaches us that we can not keep the Law perfectly; therefore we are all under the wrath of God.

3. His wrath is revealed against:

a) All ungodliness of men.

1) Word is from worship and NOT.

2) Therefore it means to not worship.

3) To be ungodly is to not worship God.

(a) It includes the passive: not worshipping.

(b) It includes the active: worshipping something other than God.

b) His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness of men.

1) Word is from right or just and NOT.

2) It means whatever is not right or just.

3) It has to do with relationships or judgments between men.

c) His wrath is revealed against violations of His Law.

1) **Matthew 22:36-40:** Jesus was asked by an expert in the Law, *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And (Jesus) said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*

2) To be ungodly is break the first commandment.

3) To be unrighteous is to break the second.

4) To break any of the commandments is to break them all.

d) His wrath is revealed against all men.

1) All men are sinners and are unrighteous.

2) **Romans 3:10:** quoting Psalm 14 and Psalm 53 says, “***THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.***”

3) **James Fausset Brown:** “...every child of Adam in his sins is the object of Heaven’s deserved and impending wrath.”

C. Men suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

1. The word suppress is literally to hold or hold back.
2. Unrighteous men hold back or lock up the truth, as in a dungeon, so that it can not get out and bother their conscience.
3. **Matthew Henry:** “*An unrighteous wicked heart is the dungeon in which many a good truth is detained and buried.*”

D. God’s wrath is revealed from heaven because all men know God

1. They know Him within because God revealed Himself within them.
 - a) That which **is** known implies that there is more that can not be known.
 - b) **John 17:3:** “*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*” (coming to know)
 - c) **Matthew Henry:** “The being of God may be apprehended, but cannot be comprehended.”
 - d) Evident is from a word which means to shine.
 - 1) God made His light to shine in some sense in all men.
 - 2) Some men hold that light in the dungeon of their dark heart so they can continue in their sins.
2. They know Him because God revealed Himself in creation.

II GOD'S INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES ARE REVEALED.

A. His invisible attributes were revealed at the creation of the world.

B. His invisible attributes are manifested.

1. They are made to shine forth.
2. **Matthew Henry**: “The workman is know by his work. The variety, multitude, order, beauty, harmony, different nature, and excellent contrivance, of the things that are made, the direction of them to certain ends, and the concurrence of all the parts to the good and beauty of the whole, do abundantly prove a Creator and his eternal power and Godhead.”
3. **Adam Clarke**: “His invisible perfections are manifested by his visible works ... their immensity showing his omnipotence; their vast variety ... his omniscience; and their adaptation to the most beneficent purposes, his infinite goodness ...”
4. **Aristotle**: “In every mortal by nature the invisible God becomes by those very works visible.”
 - a) Man knows God because only God could have created all that we see and know.
 - b) Man knows God because man is and is able to think and understand.

C. His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen.

1. Yet, without God, men see and do not see.
2. The eternal power and divine nature of God are understood through what has been made.
 - a) Anyone should be able to look and reflect upon creation and understand there is a God.
 - b) His attributes are **understood** through what has been made.
 - 1) God does not just “pop up” to anyone who looks upon creation.
 - 2) The word understood is literally “apprehended by the mind.”

- 3) It is in the calm, rational exercise of the mind reflecting on creation (including the creation and existence of man and his mind) that God is apprehended.

D. So that they are without excuse.

1. No one can claim they did not know God.
2. No one can claim they were not aware of His wrath.
3. No one can claim they did not know they needed to obey His Law.

III GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE IS REVEALED IN CHRIST.

A. The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel (vs. 16-17).

B. The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

1. All men are ungodly.
2. All men are unrighteous.

C. The "good news" is that the gospel "...is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."

1. God revealed Himself in His Son.
2. Jesus Christ did what we could not do – live a perfect life before God.
3. Jesus Christ suffered what we should have suffered – the eternal wrath of a holy God against sin.
4. In Christ all things are ours.
 - a) **Romans 8:16-17** – we are heirs of God with Christ.
 - b) **John 17:22** – we have inherited the glory of God given Christ.
 - c) **2 Corinthians 5:21** – we become the righteousness of God in Christ.

D. Don't shut up the truth of God in the dungeon of your darkened heart. Let the light of God shine in you.