

Parson to Person

ROMANS 1 (PART 6)

“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. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:18–32 NKJV).

Inasmuch as the *“righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith”* (vs. 17), correspondingly the *“wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness”* (vs. 18). Moreover, the righteousness of God is revealed as a demonstration of God’s love: atonement and propitiation/redemption, grace and forgiveness/justification, mercy and glorification/restoration for the believer. Even so, the wrath of God is revealed as a demonstration of God’s holy hatred for sin: vengeance and judgment, justice and vindication upon the ones who reject the truth. Furthermore—and as difficult as it is for some to accept—this too is a revelation of God’s righteousness and love!

I have mentioned before that we can see the righteousness of God in allowing man to sin (and suffer sin’s consequences) by and through the fact that He also provided an atonement (and plan of redemption) in the death of His Son. Likewise, it is righteous of God to demonstrate His wrath upon those who refuse the provisions He has made (and offered) for man’s redemption, by vindicating the death of His Son upon those who repudiate or ignore His offer.

Paul makes a clear presentation of the fact that man (all men) have the knowledge of God (vss. 19–21) and that those who *“suppress the truth in unrighteousness”* (vs. 18) are worthy of the judgment due them (vs. 27).

This horrible declaration is both unsettling and insightful. It tells us much of the work of God in His creation, His love for mankind, and the graciousness of God in allowing man to reject, suppress, and walk away from the truth even if it means their own demise.

May the Lord allow us to learn much from this passage, and likewise, apply it to the way we worship, the way we serve one another, and the way we share the glorious Gospel with those around us.

I love you all, Pastor Paul

Psalm 19:1–6