

Reasons for the Wrath of God, Pt. 4
Romans 1:18-23, 2017-03-12A, #55

Introduction: We have been examining some reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God. We've also seen that the righteousness of God is also being revealed which is a rescue from the wrath of God. Two of the reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God are seen in Romans 1:18 – Sin and Suppression of the truth about God.

On last Sunday, we examined two reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God in Romans 1:19-21a) – Ignoring the revelation of God of Himself and Irreverence or failure to glorify God.

Today we will examine the remaining two reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God in Romans 1:21b-23 – Ingratitude and Idolatry.

- I. Ingratitude or Failure to Give Thanks Is a Reason for the Revelation of the Wrath of God (v. 21b).**
 - A. There is a common grace that God makes available to everyone (Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35; Acts 14:17).**
 - 1. Many never give thanks to God for blessings received every day: no floods, no tornadoes, no fires, no sickness, no automobile accidents...**
 - 2. Many will say, when things go wrong, "Where was God?"**
 - a. God was in the same place He was in when everything was going well, but He was not given thanks for His blessings...**
 - b. God was in the same place He was in when Jesus suffered and died on the Cross on Calvary...**
 - 3. Many are like the 9 lepers who did not return to give thanks to Jesus for their cleansing (Luke 17:11-19).**
 - B. Thanksgiving feeds a dynamic faith:**
 - 1. Thanksgiving for past blessings gives faith for future blessings (Psalm 61:1-3).**
 - 2. David had faith to face the giant Goliath because of his recall of past victories (1 Samuel 17:34-58).**
 - 3. Jehoshaphat began his prayer with a recall of the sovereignty of God in relation to the past (2 Chronicles 20:1-30).**
 - 4. The prayer of King Hezekiah started with the sovereignty of God and with what God did in the past (Isaiah 37:15-20; cf. Psalm 50:15)...**
 - C. We are commanded to give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18; cf. Psalm 100:4; 105:1; 106:1; 118:1; Ephesians 5:20).**
 - 1. Give thanks to God because it is good to give thanks to God (Psalm 92:1-2).**

2. Give thanks to God because God is good (Psalm 107:1).
 3. Give thanks to God because of His mercy (Psalm 136:1-3; cf. Psalm 103:10; Ezra 9:13).
- D. We are commanded to let the giving of thanks be a replacement for sexual immorality, impurity, greed, dirty stories, foolish talk, and foul jokes (Ephesians 5:3-4).
- E. Thanksgiving is a cure for doubts, covetousness, worry, and anxiety (Psalm 121:1-8; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15).
- F. Thanksgiving should be a part of our daily prayers (Psalm 92:1; Philippians 4:6).
1. The acronym ACTS: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication...
 2. Thanksgiving was a part of the prayers of many of the servants of God:
 - a. Thanksgiving was a part of the prayers of David (1 Chronicles 16:7-8; Psalm 69:30).
 - b. Thanksgiving was a part of the daily prayers of Daniel (Daniel 6:10).
 - c. Thanksgiving was a part of the prayers of Paul (1 Corinthians 1:4; Romans 1:8; Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3).
- G. “Vain” (v. 21c) translates the Greek verb *mataioō* (ματαιόω), which means “futile, worthless, to make empty.”
- H. “Imaginations” (v. 21d) translates the Greek noun *dialogismos* (διαλογισμός), which means “reasoning, speculations, thought, to think out carefully.”
- I. “Foolish” (v. 21e) translates the Greek adjective *asunetos* (ἄσύνετος), which literally means, “without understanding” (cf. Matthew 15:16; Mark 7:18; Romans 1:31).
- J. “Heart” (v. 21f) translates the Greek noun *kardia* (καρδία).
1. *Kardia* is used to refer to the inner life – the inner man (Ephesians 3:16-17; cf. Romans 2:28-29; 8:27; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 14:25).
 2. *Kardia* is used to refer to the intellect or mind (Proverbs 23:7; Romans 1:21; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 3:15; 4:6; Ephesians 1:18).
 3. *Kardia* is also used to refer to the will (1 Corinthians 7:37) and to the emotions (Proverbs 17:22; 2 Corinthians 6:11-12).

- II. Idolatry Is a Reason for the Revelation of the Wrath of God (vv. 22-23).**
- A. “Changed” translates the Greek verb *allassō* (ἀλλάσσω), which means “to exchange, to substitute.”**
- B. “Uncorruptible” translates the Greek adjective *aphthartos* (ἄφθαρτος), which means “immortal, imperishable, lasting forever.”**
- C. “Corruptible” translates the Greek adjective *phthartos* (φθαρτός), which means “perishable, mortal, subject to decay, not lasting.”**
- 1. They substituted the temporal for the eternal...**
 - 2. They substituted the perishable for the imperishable...**
 - 3. They substituted the false for the true...**
 - 4. They substituted created things for the Creator of all things...**
- D. An idol can be anyone or anything that takes the place of God in our lives...**
- 1. The first two of the 10 Commandments are a prohibition against idolatry (Exodus 20:1-6).**
 - 2. Jesus said that the greatest of all the commandments is “Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your mind” (Matthew 22:37).**
 - 3. God said to Jeremiah: “For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13, NKJV).**
 - 4. St. Augustine said: “You have made us for Your Self, O Lord, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in You.”**
 - 5. The things of this world are temporal – people, places, things (1 John 2:15-17).**
 - a. Family, friends, and finances will pass away (Luke 12:13-20; cf. Mark 8:36-37).**
 - b. The Triune God is immutable (Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:10-12; James 1:17).**
 - c. The Triune God will be here when people and things have passed away (Psalm 90:2; 93:2).**
 - d. The Word of God will also last forever (Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24-25).**

- e. **There is a hymn “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand.”**

**Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can
Stand, build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God’s
Unchanging hand!**

- 6. **Your God is what you value most (Job 1:20-22)...**
 - a. **One of the definitions of worship is valuing God...**
 - b. **When Job lost all that he had, he was able to worship because he still had what he valued most – God...**

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