

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
Misplaced Worship Part III
Romans 1:28-32

Why four sermons on wrath and sin?

- (1) Because knowing the nature of sin and wrath will cause us to cherish the gospel.
- (2) Because a superficial diagnosis leads to false remedies and no cures.
- (3) Because understanding sin and wrath will make us wiser.

Profound understanding of sin and wrath will make you a far wiser person about human nature - your own and others. And if you are wiser about the nature of the human soul, you will be able to fight your own sin more successfully, and you will be able to bless others more deeply with your insight and counsel. **John Piper**

How should we respond to these verses?

- (1) Have a realistic worldview.
- (2) Don't be self-righteous.
- (3) Only God can make the unrighteous righteous.

Overview:

1. We suppress the truth about God (1:18-20)
2. We refuse to worship God (1:21-22)
3. We turn from God to worship Idols (1:23-25)
4. We receive God's wrathful response (1:24-32)
 - A. God gives us up to the lust of our hearts to impurity (v. 24).
 - B. God gives us up to dishonorable passions and shameless acts (vv. 26-27).
 - C. **God give us up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done (vv. 28-32).**

28 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.

(1) We reject God (v. 28a). – Man has decided that it's not worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.
And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God,

Humanity had tested deity and disapproved of Him and therefore rejected Him.

(2) God gives us up to a debased mind (v. 28b).
God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Total Depravity – Sin has affected our entire being-body, intellect, and will.
While not everything we do is always completely sinful, nothing we do is completely untouched by sin.

Genesis 6:5 (ESV)

5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

> What happens when we do not acknowledge God in our lives?

Psalms 36:1-4 (NLT)

1 Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God at all. 2 In their blind conceit, they cannot see how wicked they really are. 3 Everything they say is crooked and

deceitful. They refuse to act wisely or do good. 4 They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots. Their actions are never good. They make no attempt to turn from evil.

One of the reasons for this is that when a society is sinking into moral decay, one of the traits of that decay is the inability to see what is happening. The social mind becomes so defective in the moral decadence that it doesn't have the categories or the framework to recognize evil for what it really is. **John Piper**

(3) Our debased mind is bent toward doing evil (vv. 29-31). They did things that were not proper.

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

- **Unrighteousness** – Doing what is wicked.
- **Evil** – That which is sinister and vile.
- **Covetousness** – Insatiable desire to have more, greed.
- **Malice** – Wish to do harm to others.
- **Envy** – Desiring something that belongs to others, jealousy.
- **Murder** – Take another persons life, slaughter.
- **Strife** - Bitter conflict and competition, rivalry.
- **Deceit** - Dishonest practice, something done to mislead.
- **Maliciousness** – An evil disposition that deliberately harms others.
- **Gossip** - Rumors concerning others private affairs. Destroy someone’s reputation privately.
- **Slander** - Destroy another’s good reputation. Back stabbers. Destroy someone’s reputation publicly.
- **Haters of God** – One who resents God’s character, resist His ways, and reject his will.
- **Insolent** – Treats others with contempt.
- **Haughty** - Puffed up with pride, arrogant. Making unwarned claims about superiority.
- **Boastful** - Make yourself to look and sound important, pretentious.
- **Inventors of evil** – Engineering evil for your own pleasure.
- **Disobedient to parents** - Rebelling against the God given authority of your parents.
- **Foolish** – Senseless, unable to discern spiritual and moral things.
- **Faithless** – Breaks promises, untrustworthy.
- **Heartless** - Without natural love, hard hearted.
- **Ruthless** - Being without pity, merciless.

> **From Paul’s list of depraved behaviors, are there any that ever appear in your life as a believer in Christ?**

> **What happens when we sin?**

James 1:14–15

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully-grown brings forth death.

(4) We know God’s law yet we practice and celebrate sin (v. 32).

32 Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- We knew God’s righteous decree (v. 32a)
Though they know God’s righteous decree

- We knew the penalty
that those who practice such things deserve to die,
- We practice sin and approved of it (v. 32b)
they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

> **How can those with a debased mind and filled with unrighteousness be made righteous?**

2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

> **How should this passage influence our message in evangelism?**

> **How shall we battle back against these destructive evils in our own lives and in our culture?**

Crosspoint Church Covenant

III. We will frequently encourage, exhort, and admonish one another to hold to our confession of Christ, remembering that as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us now a special obligation to lead a new and holy life.

> **How can we reverse the defectiveness of our minds?**

Romans 12:1–2

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 13:12–14

12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Ephesians 4:20–24

20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:5–10

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.