ROMANS 1:18-27 THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT

AS WE DIG DEEPER INTO THE BOOK OF ROMANS WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT TOPICS.

WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH TOPICS THAT MOST CHURCHES AVOID.

THINGS THAT SOCIETY HAS DEEMED POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

WHEN YOU TEACH THE BIBLE EXEGETICALLY YOU ARE FORCED TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES.

AND QUITE HONESTLY, I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT.

I'M GRATEFUL THAT WE TACKLE THE DIFFICULT THINGS.

I'M GRATEFUL THAT WE FACE THEM HEAD ON AND DON'T RUN FROM THEM.

WE LET THE WORD OF GOD DICTATE WHAT THE TOPIC OF EACH LESSON WILL BE.

AND TODAY WILL BE A TOPIC THAT ADDRESSES THE VERY THING THAT IS KILLING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING....

SIN.

AND THE RESULT OF UNREPENTANT SIN WHICH IS THE WRATH OF GOD BEING POURED OUT ON THE UNRIGHTEOUS.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY STARTING TO WONDER WHY IN THE WORLD DID WE CHOOSE ROMANS TO STUDY...

AND THE ANSWER IS ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE.

WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS WHEN THEY ARISE.

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR WHY WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE.

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO STAND BOLDLY AND UNASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

AND TODAY MAY SEEM LIKE IT'S ALL DOOM AND GLOOM BUT IT'S NOT!

AS BELIEVERS WE DON'T HAVE TO FEAR THE WRATH OF GOD AND THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS!

TODAY'S MESSAGE IS A WARNING TO THOSE THAT REJECT THE TRUTH.

THE TRUTH THAT IS THE UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE OF GODS EXISTENCE.

IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY AND YOU HAVE DOUBTS, MAYBE YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING THIS WHOLE JESUS THING.

OR MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE AT ALL.

HERE'S MY QUESTION TO YOU...

WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? ...

WHAT IF THERE IS A GOD?

WHAT IF JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS?

WHAT IF HE IS THE ONLY WAY?

MY HOPE IS THAT BY THE END OF TODAY'S SERMON YOUR DOUBTS WILL HAVE MELTED AWAY INTO A DESIRE TO KNOW THE ONE TRUE GOD.

As we dissect these verses in Romans today, I will not be giving my personal opinion.

I WILL BE READING THE WORD OF GOD AND EXPLAINING IT TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS IN DEPTH ONE OF THE TYPES OF THE WRATH OF GOD AND WHAT THAT MEANS.

FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRATH.

WHICH CAN BE DIVIDED INTO 5 CATEGORIES.

- 1. ETERNAL WRATH WHICH IS HELL
- 2. ESCHATOLOGICAL WRATH ALSO KNOWN AS THE DAY OF THE LORD.
- 3. CATACLYSMIC WRATH SUCH AS THE FLOOD AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.
- 4. CONSEQUENTIAL WRATH OR THE CONCEPT OF YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.
- 5. THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT

TODAY WE WILL SEE THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT.

WHICH IS WHEN GOD TURNS PEOPLE OVER TO THEIR SIN AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT SIN.

ROMANS 1:18

¹⁸ FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN, WHO ^[D]SUPPRESS THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

VERSE 18 STARTS WITH THE WORD "FOR"

THIS TELLS US THAT PAUL IS REFERRING TO WHAT HE HAD JUST SAID PRIOR TO THIS VERSE.

WHICH WAS

ROMANS 1:16,17

¹⁶ FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL ^[2] OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK. ¹⁷ FOR IN IT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH; AS IT IS WRITTEN, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

WE'VE DISCUSSED THE WORD RIGHTEOUS MANY TIMES OVER AND WHAT IT MEANS.

THE GREEK WORD FOR RIGHTEOUS IS <u>DIKAIOS</u> WHICH MEANS INNOCENT OR HOLY.

SO TO BE UNRIGHTEOUS WOULD BE TO LIVE IN UNHOLY REBELLION AGAINST GOD.

ENTANGLED IN SIN WITH NO DESIRE TO OVERCOME IT.

SATISFIED IN A LIFE DRIVEN BY YOUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES, WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT OF GOD OR THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS.

BUT IN ORDER FOR US TO TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL IS SAYING WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOW WE CAN BECOME RIGHTEOUS.

IN ROMANS 3:10 PAUL QUOTES A PSALM.

Romans 3:10 ¹⁰ As it is written:

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;

BUT WAIT A SECOND PAUL, YOU JUST SAID THAT GODS WRATH WILL BE POURED OUT ON THE UNRIGHTEOUS AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS...

IS PAUL CONTRADICTING HIMSELF?

ABSOLUTELY NOT, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE READ ENTIRE SECTIONS OF SCRIPTURE AND NOT JUST PICK CHOOSE ONE VERSE HERE AND THERE.

WE WILL DIG INTO CHAPTER 3 WHEN WE GET THERE BUT I THINK IT'S OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT PAUL IS TELLING US.

ROMANS 3:21-24

²¹ But now the righteousness of God Apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all [5] and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being Justified [6] freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

VERSE 22 TELLS THE MEANS BY WHICH CHILDREN OF GOD CAN BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS...

THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

APART FROM CHRIST WE CANNOT ATTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

SO ANYONE THAT IS NOT IN CHRIST FACES THE COMING WRATH OF GOD.

ROMANS 1:18

¹⁸ FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN, WHO ^[D] SUPPRESS THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Paul's delivery of the Gospel is nothing like today.

IF YOU NOTICE HE HAS REFERENCED THE GOSPEL TWICE SO FAR IN THIS EPISTLE BUT HAS YET TO EXPLAIN IT.

BEFORE PRESENTING THE FACT THAT THERE CAN BE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, HE FIRST TELLS EVERYONE THE PENALTY OF SIN.

HE SPEAKS OF THE WRATH OF GOD BEFORE EVER EVEN MENTIONING HOW LOVING GOD IS...

THE CHURCH OF TODAY IS QUITE THE OPPOSITE.

WE GENERALLY TELL PEOPLE ALL ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL AND LOVING GOD IS.

HOW HE ACCEPTS US JUST AS WE ARE.

THAT HE FORGIVES US OF OUR SINS IF WE PLACE OUR FAITH IN HIM.

WHILE ALL OF THOSE THINGS ARE TRUE, WE TEND TO LEAVE OUT THE DIFFICULT PART.

THE PART THAT THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN THE WRATH OF GOD WILL BE POURED OUT UPON THE UNRIGHTEOUS.

THE PART THAT SAYS IF YOU REFUSE TO REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD THAT THERE IS AN ETERNITY OF SUFFERING WAITING FOR YOU.

AND WHY DO CHURCHES SKIP OVER THESE PARTS?

WHY DO THEY LEAVE OUT THE VERY THING THAT JESUS AND PAUL FOUND TO BE SO CRITICAL?

BECAUSE IT'S NOT "UPLIFTING"

BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE PEOPLE "FEEL GOOD"

BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FILL CHURCHES.

THE CHURCH OF TODAY HAS ALLOWED CULTURE TO SHAPE WHAT THEY BELIEVE INSTEAD OF THE WORD OF GOD.

THEY ARE ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

BECAUSE IT'S EASIER FOR THE WORLD TO LOVE YOU IF YOU LOOK LIKE THEM...

IT'S EASIER FOR THE WORLD TO ACCEPT YOU IF YOU ACCEPT AND AFFIRM THEIR SIN.

BUT THE WORLD ISN'T SUPPOSED TO LOVE CHRISTIANS.

IN FACT, THE WORLD WILL HATE YOU IF ARE A TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE MUST FIRST BEGIN WITH THE FACT THAT WE ARE SINNERS AND IF WE DON'T REPENT THERE WILL BE THE SEVEREST OF CONSEQUENCES.

IF WE ARE GOING TO TELL PEOPLE THEY NEED A SAVIOR THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE BEING SAVED FROM.

HUMANS SHOULD FEAR THE COMING WRATH OF GOD.

WE WOULD BE FOOLISH NOT TO FEAR GOD.

PROVERS 14:27
THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS A FOUNTAIN OF LIFE, TO TURN ONE AWAY FROM THE SNARES OF DEATH.

PSALMS 111:10

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM; A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THOSE WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS. HIS PRAISE ENDURES FOREVER.

AND THOSE ARE JUST A FEW THAT SPEAK TO THE VALUE OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

AND THIS IS THE VERY REASON PAUL STARTS HIS GOSPEL PRESENTATION THE WITH THE WRATH OF GOD.

ROMANS 1:18.19

¹⁸ FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN, WHO [□]SUPPRESS THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁹ BECAUSE WHAT MAY BE KNOWN OF GOD IS [□]MANIFEST [□]IN THEM, FOR GOD HAS SHOWN IT TO THEM.

EVIL PEOPLE SUPPRESS THE TRUTH BY IGNORING THEIR CONSCIENCE AND LIVING IN SIN.

VERSE 19 TELLS US THAT WHAT MAY BE KNOW OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN THEM.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IS THEY DENY HIS EXISTENCE, THEY DEFY HIS LAW AND THEREFORE THEY ARE TURNED OVER TO THEIR SIN.

1ST TIMOTHY 4:1,2

NOW THE SPIRIT A EXPRESSLY SAYS THAT IN LATTER TIMES SOME WILL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO DECEIVING SPIRITS AND DOCTRINES OF DEMONS, 2 SPEAKING LIES IN HYPOCRISY, HAVING THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE SEARED WITH A HOT IRON.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO IGNORE YOUR CONSCIENCE YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME NUMB TO IT.

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE GUILT OVER SIN ONLY A GROWING DESIRE FOR MORE.

AND UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES IT WILL CONSUME YOU AND ULTIMATELY DEVOUR YOU.

IT WILL INFILTRATE EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE UNTIL IT HAS COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER.

AS WE LEARNED A FEW WEEKS AGO WE ARE EITHER SLAVES OF CHRIST OR SLAVES OF OUR SIN.

JESUS WANTS TO SAVE YOU; SIN WANTS TO DESTROY YOU.

WHICH MASTER WILL YOU SERVE?

ROMANS 1:19,20

¹⁹ BECAUSE WHAT MAY BE KNOWN OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN THEM, FOR GOD HAS SHOWN IT TO THEM. ²⁰ 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.

VERSE 19 SAYS THAT GOD HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE, VERSE 20 TELLS US HOW...

GOD EXISTENCE IS UNDENIABLE.

EVERYTHING WE KNOW SCREAMS TO THE FACT THAT THERE IS CREATOR.

MODERN SCIENCE WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT WE EVOLVED FROM APES.

WELL, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT THEORY.

IN FACT, THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE THAT DISCREDIT AND DISPROVE IT, YET OUR CHILDREN ARE STILL BEING TAUGHT IT IN SCHOOL.

THINK ABOUT THIS...

THE MALE AND FEMALE WOULD'VE HAD TO HAVE EVOLVED AT THE EXACT SAME RATE AND IN THE EXACT SAME LOCATION IN ORDER TO REPRODUCE.

WHAT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE STILL APES.

OR THE FACT THAT HUMANS AREN'T CONTINUING TO EVOLVE...

THE REASON ALL OF THIS CAN'T BE PROVEN IS BECAUSE IT'S NOT TRUE.

WE ARE CREATED BEINGS LIVING IN A CREATED UNIVERSE.

SCIENCE SAYS THERE WAS BIG BANG AND THAT'S WHAT STARTED IT ALL.

THAT THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR THE EARTH AND LIFE WERE FLOATING AROUND IN TOTAL CHAOS UNTIL THEY SLAMMED INTO EACH OTHER.

AND BANG HERE WE ARE....

HERE'S THE MOST LOGICAL WAY I CAN EXPLAIN THAT.

TAKE ALL THE PARTS REQUIRED TO BUILD A CAR AND LEAVE THEM IN A GARAGE FOR A MILLION PLUS YEARS AND EVENTUALLY THEY WILL BECOME A CAR.

BUT WHAT WOULD REALLY HAPPEN IF YOU DID THAT?

IN JUST A HUNDRED YEARS YOU'D HAVE BUNCH OF BOXES FULL OF RUST AND COVERED IN DUST.

EVERYTHING AROUND US TESTIFIES TO THE FACT OF GODS EXISTENCE.

IT TAKES MUCH MORE FAITH TO BELIEVE IN THE BIG BANG AND EVOLUTION THAT IT DOES TO BELIEVE IN THE TRIUNE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

ROMANS 1:20

²⁰ 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 ^[G]GODHEAD. SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE,

CREATION ITSELF UNDERSTANDS WHO GOD IS AND MAN HAS NO EXCUSE TO DENY WHO HE IS OTHER THAN THEIR DESIRE TO WALK IN DARKNESS.

PSALM 19:1-9

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD;

AND THE FIRMAMENT SHOWS HIS HANDIWORK.

² DAY UNTO DAY UTTERS SPEECH,

AND NIGHT UNTO NIGHT REVEALS KNOWLEDGE.

³ There is no speech nor language

Where their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their ^[c]Line has gone out through all the earth,

AND THEIR WORDS TO THE END OF THE WORLD.

IN THEM HE HAS SET A DTABERNACLE FOR THE SUN,

⁵ Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

AND REJOICES LIKE A STRONG MAN TO RUN ITS RACE.

⁶ ITS RISING IS FROM ONE END OF HEAVEN,

AND ITS CIRCUIT TO THE OTHER END:

AND THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN FROM ITS HEAT.

⁷THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT, [5] CONVERTING THE SOUL;

THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE;

⁸ The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the

EYES; ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The Judgments of the Lord are true and righteous

ALTOGETHER.

THE PSALMIST ENDS THIS SECTION BY SPEAKING OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENTS.

ROMANS 1:21

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.

THE BEGINNING OF VS 21 SAYS "ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD"

BUT HOW DID THEY GOD?

THE VERSES WE JUST READ TOLD US.

THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE BECAUSE CREATION ITSELF HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS A GOD.

Vs 21 goes on to say that they did not glorify God.

EVERY PERSON EVER CREATED WAS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GLORIFYING GOD.

AND EVERY PERSON EVER CREATED WILL GLORIFY GOD ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

HIS CHILDREN, THOSE OF US THAT HAVE SUBMITTED TO HIS LORDSHIP AND WALK FAITHFULLY WITH HIM AND WILL GLORIFY HIM BY HOW WE LIVE OUR LIFE.

FOR THOSE THAT CHOOSE TO REJECT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE THEY WILL GLORIFY HIM ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

EVERY KNEE WILL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS!

JESUS IS LORD!

NOTICE IT SAYS "IN HEAVEN, ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH..."

THIS MEANS EVEN THOSE THAT ARE DAMNED TO HELL WILL EXALT THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

THAT'S HOW NON-BELIEVERS WILL GLORIFY GOD.

AND VERSE 11 ENDS BY SAYING TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER...

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO BOW TO HIM HERE AND NOW, AND CONFESS THAT HE IS LORD OR YOU WILL BE FORCED TO BOW TO HIM ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, ONLY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO REAP THE REWARDS.

ROMANS 1:21

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.

GOD DOESN'T DARKEN PEOPLE'S HEARTS; GOD TURNS THEM OVER TO THEIR SIN AND THEIR SIN DARKENS THEIR HEARTS.

THIS IS CALLED THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT WHICH IS THE SPECIFIC WRATH PAUL IS EXPRESSING IN THIS SECTION.

WHICH IS WHAT HELL IS BY THE WAY.

COMPLETE SEPARATION FROM GODS LOVE.

ROMANS 1:22

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

I READ THIS VERSE AND MY MIND IMMEDIATELY JUMPS TO THE PHARISES AND THE FACT THAT PAUL HIMSELF WAS A PHARISES.

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SO WISE BUT IN REALITY, THEY WERE COMPLETE FOOLS.

REJECTING JESUS, IGNORING EVERYTHING THEY KNEW IN SCRIPTURE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T ALIGN WITH THEIR OPINION.

CAN I JUST SAY THAT WHEN IT COMES TO THE TRUTH PEOPLE'S OPINIONS DON'T MATTER.

OPINIONS COME WITH FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS THAT CLOUD OUR JUDGMENT.

WE MUST OPERATE IN THE TRUTH THAT IS THE WORD OF GOD REGARDLESS OF OUR OPINIONS OR HOW IT MAKES US FEEL.

THE WORD OF GOD IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE IF YOU ARE ENGAGED IN SIN.

THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD CAUSE YOU TO GRIEVE AS IT REVEALS THE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE YOU MUST CHANGE.

THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD HUMBLE YOU AND DRIVE YOU TO YOUR KNEES AS IT REVEALS TO YOU THE FACT THAT YOU NEED A SAVOIR.

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE PROUD IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BUT WHAT IT SHOULD NOT DO IS CAUSE US TO FALL INTO SELF-PITY.

THE PURPOSE IS TO REVEAL SIN SO WE CAN CHANGE, NOT TO REVEAL SIN SO THAT WE FEEL SORRY FOR OURSELVES.

Romans 1:22
²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

JOHN MACARTHUR SAYS THIS ON VERSE 22:

"MAN RATIONALIZES HIS SIN AND PROVES HIS UTTER FOOLISHNESS BY DEVISING AND BELIEVING HIS OWN PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT GOD, THE UNIVERSE AND HIMSELF"

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FACT THAT EVERY RELIGION OTHER THAN CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM PRIOR TO JESUS' LIFE IS MANMADE?

PEOPLE WOULD RATHER WORSHIP A GOD OF THEIR OWN MAKING BECAUSE THAT GIVES THEM THE FREEDOM TO LIVE IN THEIR SIN.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IN THE NEXT VERSE.

ROMANS 1:22,23

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like [h] corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

IN MAN'S FOOLISHNESS THEY DENIED THE ONE TRUE GOD AND GAVE THEMSELVES OVER TO THE WORSHIP OF IDOLS.

AND THIS IS STILL TAKING PLACE TO THIS VERY DAY.

THE SIN THAT RUNS MOST RAMPANT IN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN IS IDOLATRY.

WHICH IS A VIOLATION OF THE 1st COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:3,4

³ "YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

⁴ "YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF A CARVED IMAGE—ANY LIKENESS OF ANYTHING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH;

OUR IDOLS MAY LOOK DIFFERENT THAN THOSE THAT EXISTED 2000 YEARS AGO BUT THEY ARE NO LESS DANGEROUS.

IDOLS TODAY ARE FOUND ON SPORTS TEAMS AND ON THE BIG SCREEN.

THEY ARE ALSO FOUND IN OUR POCKETS...

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2022 THERE WERE OVER 8.5 BILLION MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS COMPARED TO A GLOBAL POPULATION OF 7.95 BILLION...

WHILE THESE TINY DEVICES HAVE A POSITIVE ASPECT, WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO LET THEM CONTROL OUR LIVES.

WE MINDLESSLY SCROLL FOR HOURS ALL THE WHILE NEGLECTING PRAYER AND TIME IN GOD'S WORD.

AN IDOL IS ANYTHING THAT IS PLACED AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF VALUE THAN GOD.

IT CAN BE MONEY, POWER, SEX, DRUGS....

IT CAN ALSO BE OURSELVES.

IF YOU HOLD YOUR DESIRES IN A PLACE ABOVE GOD AND WHAT HE DESIRES FOR YOU, THEN YOU HAVE BECOME YOUR OWN IDOL.

PAUL SAYS "THEY BECAME FOOLS, ²³ AND CHANGED THE GLORY OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE GOD INTO AN IMAGE MADE LIKE LOORRUPTIBLE MAN—AND BIRDS AND FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS AND CREEPING THINGS."

THE GREEK WORD FOR CORRUPTIBLE IS PHTHARTOU

WHICH LITERALLY MEANS PERISHABLE COMING FROM THE ROOT WORD *PHTHEIRO* WHICH MEANS DECAY.

SO MAN GAVE THEMSELVES UP TO WORSHIP DEAD AND DYING PEOPLE AND THINGS INSTEAD OF THE IMMORTAL HOLY GOD.

WHICH COMES WITH GREAT CONSEQUENCE, AS WE CLEARLY SEE IN THE NEXT SEVERAL VERSES.

ROMANS 1:24

THEREFORE GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNESS, IN THE LUSTS OF THEIR HEARTS, TO DISHONOR THEIR BODIES AMONG THEMSELVES,

THE WORD THEREFORE REFERS BACK TO REASON PAUL HAS JUST GIVEN IN VERSES 18-23.

ALTHOUGH GOD HAD REVEALED HIMSELF TO MAN, MAN REJECTED GOD AND THEN RATIONALIZED HIS REJECTION AND CREATED HIS OWN GODS AND BECAUSE MAN ABANDONED GOD, GOD ABANDONED MEN AND GAVE THEM OVER.

This is the wrath of God in action, he gave them over to their sin.

THIS IS THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT.

GOD DOESN'T HAVE TO DESTROY SINNERS, NOW THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE DOESN'T BUT MOST OF THE TIME HE SIMPLY HANDS THEM OVER.

HE GIVES THEM WHAT THEY SO DESPERATELY DESIRE WHICH IS TO BE LEFT ALONE.

Unfortunately, in people's desire for God to not be involved in their life they fail to see what that truly means.

IT MEANS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN OVER TO THE ENEMY TO DO WITH AS HE PLEASES.

IT MEANS THAT THE SIN THAT THEY CHOSE OVER GOD WILL BE THE VERY THING THAT BRINGS ABOUT THEIR DEMISE.

THE LUSTS OF THEIR HEART WILL CONSUME EVERY FIBER OF THEIR BEING, TURNING THEM INTO A MONSTER NEVER SATISFIED.

A HUNGRY BEAST DEVOURING THEMSELVES.

SIN DEGRADES MAN, DEBASING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN WHICH THEY WERE CREATED.

SIN STRIPS MAN OF DIGNITY, PEACE OF MIND AND A CLEAR CONSCIENCE.

SIN DESTROYS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, MARRIAGES, FAMILIES, CITIES AND NATIONS.

IT ALSO DESTROYS CHURCHES.

FALLEN MAN IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SIN BUT ONLY ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR SIN.

IT HAS BEEN WELL SAID THAT SIN WOULD HAVE FEWER TAKERS IF THE CONSEQUENCES WERE IMMEDIATE.

Paul writes that "God Also Gave Them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves."

GOD IS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON OUR HEARTS, NOT OUR WORKS, NOT OUR SERVICE, NOT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH BUT OUR HEARTS.

OUR MOTIVATION BEHIND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO...

HE ALSO SAYS TO "DISHONOR THEIR BODIES AMONG THEMSELVES."

WHEN MEN SEEK TO GLORIFY THEIR OWN WAYS AND TO SATISFY THEIR BODIES THROUGH SHAMEFUL SEXUAL INDULGENCES AND OTHER SINS.

THEY NOT ONLY BRING DISHONOR TO THEIR BODIES BUT THEY DISHONOR THEIR SOUL AS WELL.

WHEN PEOPLE SEEK TO ELEVATE THEMSELVES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES AND BY THEIR OWN STANDARDS, THEY INEVITABLY DO THE OPPOSITE.

REMEMBER MANKIND IS FALLEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO FALL UNTIL THE RETURN OF JESUS.

THE MORE PEOPLE TRY TO EXALT THEMSELVES THE MORE THEY DECLINE.

THE MORE THEY TRY TO HONOR THEMSELVES THE MORE THEY BECOME DISHONORED.

PROVERBS 16:18
PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, AND A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL.

I FIND IT VERY INTERESTING THAT SEXUAL IMMORALITY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS IDOLATRY.

WE WILL CLEARLY SEE THE SINS THAT PAUL IS REFERRING TO IN THE NEXT FEW VERSES.

ROMANS 1:24,25

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

FIRST, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES WHAT TRUTH OF GOD IS PAUL REFERRING TO?

I THINK HE'S REFERRING TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF GOD.

PEOPLE DENY THE TRUTH OF GODS EXISTENCE BECAUSE IF HE DOESN'T EXIST THEN HE CANNOT PASS JUDGMENT ON THEM.

THE PROBLEM WITH THAT THOUGHT PROCESS IS THAT HE DOES EXIST.

JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT FACT DOESN'T MAKE YOU EXEMPT FROM THE WRATH TO COME.

SO WHY WOULD PEOPLE REJECT THE TRUTH AND EMBRACE A LIE?

JOHN 3:18-20

¹⁸ "HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED; BUT HE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD. ¹⁹ AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION, THAT THE LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE

<u>EVIL.</u> ²⁰ FOR EVERYONE PRACTICING EVIL HATES THE LIGHT AND DOES NOT COME TO THE LIGHT, LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE EXPOSED.

REJECTION OF THE TRUTH RESULTS IN ABANDONMENT.

THAT IS THEIR CONDEMNATION.

PEOPLE EMBRACE THE LIE BECAUSE THEY LOVE THEIR SIN.

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE EXPOSED FOR WHAT THEY TRULY ARE.

Unfortunately for them there is coming a day when all things done in darkness will be exposed.

THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN EVERYONE'S TRUE COLORS WILL BE REVEALED, AND SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT SOME OF THEM WILL BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THEY WERE NEVER A CHILD OF GOD.

WE TEND TO PLACE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THINGS WE'VE DONE FOR CHRIST INSTEAD OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.

TRULY THE ONLY THING THAT WE'VE DONE THAT MATTERS IS CONFESS OUR SINS, CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD AND REPENT OF OUR SINS.

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE THOSE THINGS THEN EVERYTHING YOU DO, NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU THINK IT IS, IS FOR YOURSELF AND FOR YOUR OWN GLORY.

MATTHEW 6:1-4

"TAKE HEED THAT YOU DO NOT DO YOUR CHARITABLE DEEDS BEFORE MEN, TO BE SEEN BY THEM. OTHERWISE, YOU HAVE NO REWARD FROM YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.² THEREFORE, WHEN YOU DO A CHARITABLE DEED, DO NOT SOUND A TRUMPET BEFORE YOU AS THE HYPOCRITES DO IN THE SYNAGOGUES AND IN THE STREETS, THAT THEY MAY HAVE GLORY FROM MEN. ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD.³ BUT WHEN YOU DO A CHARITABLE DEED, DO NOT LET YOUR LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHT HAND IS DOING, ⁴ THAT YOUR CHARITABLE DEED MAY BE IN SECRET; AND YOUR FATHER WHO SEES IN SECRET WILL HIMSELF REWARD YOU ADDITED.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO THINGS TO GLORIFY YOURSELF AND RECEIVE PRAISE AMONG MEN THEN YOU WILL RECEIVE NO REWARD FROM GOD BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED YOUR REWARD...

THE PRAISE OF MEN IS YOUR REWARD WHICH HOLDS NO ETERNAL VALUE WHATSOEVER.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T FIGURE IT OUT YET, GOD DOESN'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT YOU.

HE'S NOT WAITING FOR A RESUMÉ WITH REFERENCES BEFORE HE LETS YOU IN HEAVEN.

HE NEEDS ONLY ONE REFERRAL AND THAT REFERRAL CAN ONLY COME FROM JESUS.

ROMANS 1:26,27

²⁶ FOR THIS REASON GOD GAVE THEM UP TO VILE PASSIONS. FOR EVEN THEIR WOMEN EXCHANGED THE NATURAL USE FOR WHAT IS AGAINST NATURE. ²⁷ LIKEWISE ALSO THE WMEN, 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.

HERE WE GO!

LET'S TACKLE WHAT HAS BECOME ONE OF, IF NOT THE MOST DEBATED TOPICS IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE.

LET'S LOOK AT IT PIECE BY PIECE.

PAUL STARTS WITH THE STATEMENT "FOR THIS REASON"

WELL FOR WHAT REASON?

BECAUSE THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD FOR A LIE AND CHOSE TO WORSHIP THE CREATION OVER THE CREATOR.

AND FOR THAT REASON, GPD GAVE THEM TO VILE PASSIONS.

HOMOSEXUALITY IS VILE TO GOD.

AND WAS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

THERE IS NO WAY TO TRY AND ARGUE AND SAY THAT PAUL IS REFFERING TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN HOMOSEXUALITY.

PEOPLE WILL TRY TO TWIST THIS AND SAY THAT IT DOESN'T SPEAK AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY BUT RATHER PEDOPHILIA.

THEY WILL SAY IN THE GREEK IT USES THE WORD BOY AND NOT MAN WELL THAT'S NOT TRUE.

THE WORD USED FOR MAN IS ARSESIN IN BOTH INSTANCES.

THE OTHER ARGUMENT YOU WILL HEAR IS THAT JESUS HIMSELF NEVER CONDEMNED HOMOSEXUALITY.

WE CAN DISPEL THAT LIE AS WELL.

MATTHEW 19:4.5

⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who^[A]made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

JESUS REAFFIRMS WHAT GOD PUT IN PLACE WITH THE VERY FIRST MARRIAGE BETWEEN ADAM AND EVE.

I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT JESUS HIMSELF CONDEMNS HOMOSEXUALITY WITH THE VERY VERSE WE ARE READING ROMANS...

AND YOU MAY BE THINKING BUT PAUL WROTE THAT.

So, I'D LIKE US TO LOOK AT JOHN 1:1-5

JOHN 1:1-5

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. ² HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ³ ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT WAS MADE. ⁴ IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. ⁵ AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT COMPREHEND IT.

JOHN 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

ALTHOUGH THE BIBLE MAY HAVE PENNED BY MORE THAN 40 AUTHORS EVERY WORD IN IT IS FROM JESUS HIMSELF.

SO TO SAY THAT JESUS NEVER CONDEMNED HOMOSEXUALITY IS TO DENY THE FACT OF WHAT WE JUST READ IN JOHN.

AS ONE OF THE PASTORS AND ELDERS OF THIS CHURCH IT IS MY DUTY TO PROCLAIM AND PROTECT THE TRUTH THAT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

AS CHRISTIANS IT IS ALL OF OUR DUTY TO PROTECT AND PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD.

REGARDLESS OF HOW IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL.

THIS ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HOMOSEXUALITY IS CONDEMNED.

IT IS ALSO CONDEMNED IN 1ST TIMOTHY, 1ST CORINTHIANS AND THE BOOK OF JUDE.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE HATE HOMOSEXUALS?

ABSOLUTELY NOT, BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT WE DO NOT ENDORSE, CONDONE, PROMOTE OR SUPPORT IT.

WE MUST LOVE EVERYONE, AND SOMETIMES THE WAY TO DO THAT IS BY LOVINGLY TELLING THEM THE TRUTH.

THE GOSPEL.

WHICH SHOULD START WITH THE COMING WRATH OF GOD TOWARDS ALL THAT REFUSE TO REPENT.

NONE OF THESE PEOPLE ARE CONDEMNED TO HELL YET.

THERE IS STILL HOPE.

AS LONG AS THEY'RE ALIVE THERE IS TIME TO REPENT AND TURN TO JESUS.

WE MUST DELIVER THE WHOLE TRUTH; WE CAN'T JUST TELL PEOPLE ABOUT ALL THE GOOD THINGS.

WE HAVE TO TELL THEM ABOUT THE WRATH OF GOD, WE HAVE TO TELL THEM ABOUT AN ETERNITY IN HELL.

WE HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE CALLED TO A LIFE OF SERVICE AND SUFFERING.

BUT WE CAN BOLDLY SAY THAT IT'S WORTH IT.

NO AMOUNT OF PAIN AND LOSS WILL EVER BE ABLE TO DIM THE GLORY OF GOD THAT WE WILL EXPERIENCE IN ETERNITY.

THE WRATH OF GOD IS REAL AND IT IS INEVITABLE.

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT AS A CHRISTIAN YOU WILL BE SPARED FROM IT.

SO TODAY WE'VE LEARNED THAT WRATH OF GOD COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS.

ONE OF THOSE FORMS BEING THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT.

FOR THE CHILD OF GOD, THE THOUGHT OF BEING ABANDONED BY GOD IS UNTHINKABLE.

BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT JESUS WILL BE WITH US UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE.

JESUS HAS PROMISED US THAT NOTHING CAN SNATCH US FROM HIS HANDS.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT GOD WONT DISCIPLINE US BECAUSE HE CERTAINLY DOES

PROVERBS 3:12

FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CORRECTS, JUST AS A FATHER THE SON IN WHOM HE DELIGHTS.

BUT THE FOR THE UNREPENTANT, UNRIGHTEOUS NON BELIEVER THEY WILL FACE THE WRATH OF A HOLY, JUST GOD THAT HATES SIN.

IN ORDER FOR GOD TO PERFECTLY LOVE HE MUST ALSO PERFECTLY HATE.

WE DON'T LIKE TO THINK OF GOD THAT WAY BUT IT'S TRUE.

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN BUT HE HATES SIN.

AND IN ORDER FOR HIM TO BE A JUST GOD HE MUST JUDGE AND PUNISH SINNERS.

BUT CHRISTIANS ARE COVERED IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS AND THEREFORE WILL BE SPARED THE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT WE ALL DESERVE.

ROMANS 3:23,24

²³ FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, ²⁴ BEING JUSTIFIED ^[6] FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

JUSTIFICATION CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN CHRIST.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN CHRIST.

ETERNITY IN HEAVEN CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN CHRIST.

AS THE END DRAWS NEAR, WE MUST DRAW NEAR TO OUR SAVIOR.

WE MUST HONOR HIM WITH HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES.

WE MUST BOLDLY STAND FOR THE TRUTH THAT IS WORD THE GOD.

WE MUST BE ABLE TO FIRMLY STAND IN OPPOSITION TO SIN WHILE MAINTAINING A HUMBLE AND COMPASSIONATE HEART.

PRAYER...