

Women's Bible Study – Homework Handout



Lesson 2 | Romans 1:18-32

God's wrath, Pt 1: The wickedness of the Gentiles

Name: _____

Date: _____

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, insight, and understanding as you study this passage. Begin by reading the full text above before working through the questions.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:18-20

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

1. The Apostle Paul spends a decent amount of his letter to the Romans talking about the sin of humanity and God's wrath against it. Why do you think he starts the main part of his letter here, and devotes so much "air time" to this topic? See Mark 2:17.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

2. In v18, Paul tells us that the wrath of God is being revealed against godlessness and wickedness. He goes on to talk about how this wrath is revealed in vv24, 26-32. But first, he describes the nature of this godlessness and wickedness in the last part of v18. What does he say about it?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

3. Skip ahead all the way to v32. How else is this godlessness and wickedness described, and why is it so serious?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

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4. a) How, according to vv19-20, is the truth about the reality of God plain to all people? See also Ps 19:1, Acts 14:17. b) So then, what do you think it looks like to suppress the truth? c) Can you think of a time in your life when you've suppressed something you knew to be true, but didn't want to believe?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:21-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

5. a) What, according to vv21-22, happens to us when we suppress the truth about God that is evident to us? b) Is this just a matter of suffering the consequences of *our own actions*, or is something bigger going on here? (HINT: Notice the verbs in the phrases "their thinking *became* futile" and "their foolish hearts *were darkened*.")

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

6. In v23, what—at least from our darkened perspective on life—takes the place of God's glory when we suppress the truth?

MY RESPONSE

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7. So what do you think it actually looks like for us to give up the glory of God in exchange for images “made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles” (v23)? See Dt 4:16,17; Ps 106:20-21; Jer 2:11; Acts 17:29.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:24-25

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

8. Idolatry” is another word used to describe how this exchange manifests itself in our lives. What, according to v25b, is idolatry?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

9. a) Do you think of yourself, at the core of who you are, as a worshiping creature? b) How might it change your perspective on what you want or hope for if you could see yourself as someone who is always worshiping someone or something? c) Are there things in your life where it is obvious to you that you are tempted to worship and delight in before and above God?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:26-29a

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Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.

10. What according to vv24, 26-29a, 32, is the consequence of this idolatry?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

11. a) What phrase is repeated in vv 24, 26, and 28? b) Maybe you've always thought of consequence as being something unpleasant that happens to you as a result of a bad choice or behavior. But have you ever thought of a consequence as being given over to the very thing you long, desire, and hope for?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

12. v24 describes a consequence of idolatry as being given over to sexual impurity in general. Then vv26-27 describe a sexual impurity that is unnatural. Why do you think Paul calls it unnatural? (Remember, this is all in the context of him talking about God as Creator (v25).

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They

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are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

- 13.** Do you think that Paul is picking on homosexuals here, or suggesting that homosexual behavior is the worst sin ever – and that heterosexual sin is more acceptable? See vv28-32.

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1:17-18

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

- 14.** Let's return full circle to v18. Why might it be important that v18 was written after v17?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES
