

# ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

**February 25, 2024**

*Series:* Know the Truth

*Scripture:* Romans 1:18-32

*Sermon:* The Power and Justice of God to Punish

*Summary:* The Good News is for everyone but there are those who, because of sin and wickedness, suppress the truth. Rejection of the truth takes effort because God has made the truth obvious to everyone. The dividing line is faith. Some believe, others do not. Those who do not believe chose not to worship the God who created them but create their own gods. There are eternal consequences for all who reject the truth about God and there is no excuse for not knowing God.

Romans 1:17 - "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." NLT

It is through sin that an unrighteous person has death.

## **Romans 1:18-32**

*18 But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

*21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

*24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.*

*28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. 29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. 30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. 31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. 32 They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.*

- I. God Hates Sinful Wickedness Which is Truth Suppression
- II. Trading Truth for a Lie: Worshiping the Created not the Creator
- III. God's Justice Requires Death for Those Who Do Things That Should Never Be Done

The righteous shall live by faith. Romans 1:17

You know the truth! Has the truth set you free?

*Life Application:*

1. Describe God's invisible qualities, eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20).
2. Since God has made who he is and what he has done obvious to all, why are there still people who reject and suppress the truth about God?
3. There are and always have been people who suppress the truth. Name some ways to fight/push back against the darkness and wickedness of truth suppression.
4. When the culture of a family, community or nation goes the direction of those Paul writes about in Romans 1:18-32, what is God's response? What should our response be?
5. How are committed followers of Christ to live in a wicked and sinful nation? What are some observable values of a community of faith in such a society (The Church)?
6. In what ways can those who believe the truth about God share that truth in the cancel culture of suppressed truth? What must believers be prepared to face? How should believers be prepared to respond?
7. What did Jesus teach his disciples was sure to come (Matthew 10:16-18; John 15:19-20)? And how did he teach them to respond? How are we to understand these teachings in light of the cultural shifts in our nation? In our schools and communities? What are we to do now?
8. PRAY: Ask the Lord to use you and the church to live and act in such a way as to reflect the truth about God to sinners who have rejected him.