

ROMANS 02

THE DESCENT INTO DARKNESS

ROMANS 1:18-32

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,

**BEFORE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND _____
YOU MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF
_____.**

Romans 1:18 FOR THE WRATH OF GOD is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

_____ MEANS EVERY _____ AND EVERY
_____!

No sin is excluded. No person is immune.

I. _____ DARKNESS

GOD WAS _____

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN TWO WAYS.

1. GOD PUTS HIMSELF ON OUR _____

Romans 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

GOD IS SEEN IN WHAT HE _____

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

PEOPLE FAIL TO _____ GOD

21 Even though they knew God they **DID NOT HONOR HIM AS GOD...**

THEY KNEW THERE WAS A GOD BUT THEY LIVED AS IF THERE WASN'T.

_____ REPLACES FAITH

21 ... but they became futile in their speculations, Rationalism replaced relationship. AND THE RESULT WAS AN ENLIGHTENED MIND BUT A DARKENED HEART.

HEARTS GROW _____

21 ... and their FOOLISH HEART was darkened.

A Foolish heart is really just a _____ heart.

Romans 1:21 Their FOOLISH (FRAGMENTED) hearts were DARKENED.

II. SIGNS OF A GROWING _____

INABILITY TO _____ LIFE

22 *Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

WORSHIP THE _____ RATHER THAN

23 *and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

25 *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and WORSHIPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

ONE WAY TO WORSHIP THE CREATION RATHER THAN THE CREATOR IS THROUGH A RADICAL _____ TO

ANOTHER WAY TO WORSHIP THE CREATURE INSTEAD OF THE CREATOR IS TO SIMPLY GIVE IN TO _____

24 *THEREFORE GOD GAVE THEM OVER in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.*

CONFUSION

GOD NEVER GIVES _____ BUT HE DOES GIVE _____.

26 *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,*

MOST PEOPLE NEVER REALIZE THAT GETTING WHAT YOU WANT CAN BE A FORM OF _____.

MORAL CONFUSION seems to be the canary in the coalmine.

Stedman, "The first sign of wickedness in a civilization is that sexual immorality, which is always present in human life, becomes widely accepted."

27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

DEPRAVITY

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a DEPRAVED MIND, to do those things which are not proper,

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

**IF YOU ARE NOT IN A _____ WITH CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH, THEN THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED
FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**