
A Note from Pastor Chris

I want to clarify a comment I made regarding same sex attraction. I noted that having a same sex attraction was not sinful. I stand by that statement. However, for the sake of clarity, harboring such an attraction is. Same sex attraction that leads to inappropriate thoughts or behaviors is sinful just as such heterosexual thoughts and behaviors do. We must all “flee sexual immorality” (1 Cor 6:18) in all its various kinds.

Summary

What stirs the wrath of a holy God? This powerful exploration of Romans 1:18-32 takes us on a sobering journey through the throne room of heaven and into the depths of human sinfulness. We're confronted with a vivid picture: God seated in unapproachable light, worthy of all glory, yet humanity repeatedly choosing to suppress His truth, exchange His glory for worthless idols, and embrace lies over reality. The passage reveals four critical areas that provoke divine anger: our damage to truth through suppression and deceit, our mental futility when we refuse to love God with our minds, our worship of created things rather than the Creator, and our sexual immorality in all its forms. What makes this message so compelling is its unflinching honesty about the gap between us and God—a chasm so vast that no human effort could ever bridge it. Yet this devastating diagnosis leads to the most beautiful cure: Jesus Christ, who absorbed God's wrath on our behalf. When we truly grasp how far we've fallen, we can finally appreciate how high Christ has lifted us. This isn't just ancient theology; it's a mirror held up to our modern struggles with pornography, idolizing family or reputation, accepting cultural lies, and calling evil good. The call is clear: value truth, fight for our minds, reject idols, honor God's design for sexuality, and worship Him with everything we have.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

Revelation 4 - Description of God's throne room

Romans 1:18-32 - Main text (read in full from NET Version)

Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength

John 8:31-32 - "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free"

John 14:6 - "I am the way and the truth and the life"

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The human mind is deceitful

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - Taking every thought captive to Christ

Exodus 32:10 - God's anger over the golden calf

Matthew 5:28 - Looking at a woman with lust is adultery in the heart

Alluded to or Paraphrased:

Genesis 3 - The serpent's deception in the garden ("Did God really say...?")

Luke 14:26 - Rejecting father, mother, brother, sister for Christ

Matthew 18:6 / Mark 9:42 / Luke 17:2 - Millstone around neck for causing little ones to stumble

John 10:10 - Enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy

Isaiah 64:6 - Our righteous works are like filthy rags

John 4:24 - Worship in spirit and in truth

Ephesians 6:12 - Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities

Philippians 4:8 - Think on things that are true, worthy of respect, pure, lovely, good, and commendable

James 1:5 - If you lack wisdom, ask God

The Ten Commandments Context:

Exodus 20:3 / Deuteronomy 5:7 - "You shall have no other gods before me"

Discussion Questions

- In what ways do we suppress or exchange the truth of God for lies in our daily lives, and how can we become more aware of these patterns?
- How does understanding the magnitude of God's wrath against sin deepen our appreciation for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

- What modern idols compete for your worship and devotion, and how can you practically put Jesus first above family, reputation, or financial security?
- How does the concept of taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ apply to the mental battles you face in today's media-saturated culture?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes that people not only commit sins but also approve of those who practice them, and what are the implications for how we respond to sin in our communities?
- In what ways does our culture damage or suppress truth through deceit and slander, and how should Christians respond while maintaining both grace and conviction?
- How does recognizing that all sexual sin outside of marriage between a husband and wife is equally offensive to God challenge contemporary cultural narratives about sexuality?
- What does it mean to be welcoming to all sinners without being affirming of sin, and how can the church practically live out this distinction?
- How does Paul's description of humanity's futile thinking and darkened hearts help us understand our complete dependence on the Holy Spirit for transformation?
- If the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness is infinitely larger than we can imagine, how should this reality shape our worship, gratitude, and daily walk with Christ?

5-Day Devotional: Understanding God's Wrath and Grace

Day 1: The Reality of Truth

Reading: John 8:31-36; Romans 1:18-20

Devotional: Jesus declared, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Yet how often do we suppress truth because it makes us uncomfortable? God has revealed Himself clearly

through creation and conscience, leaving us without excuse. When we push down what we know to be true about God, we damage our own souls and invite His righteous anger. Truth isn't negotiable from God's perspective—it's essential for life itself. Today, examine your heart: Are there truths about God you've been avoiding? Are you exchanging His truth for comfortable lies? Freedom begins when we stop running from truth and embrace it fully, even when it first makes us angry. God values truth because He IS truth, and He calls us to walk in it courageously.

Day 2: The Battle for Your Mind

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 1:21-23

Devotional: A spiritual war rages for control of your thoughts. Paul warns that rejecting God leads to futile thinking and darkened hearts. Apart from the Holy Spirit, our minds naturally drift toward deception and foolishness. The enemy bombards us with lies disguised as wisdom, tempting us to suppress God's truth. But we have a weapon: taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ. This means examining each idea that enters your mind—does it acknowledge Jesus as Lord? Does it align with Scripture? Does it lead you toward holiness or away from it? Don't passively accept every thought; interrogate it. Put questionable thoughts "in jail" until you can test them against God's Word. Your mind is sacred territory. Guard it fiercely, fill it with Scripture, and invite the Holy Spirit to renew your thinking daily.

Day 3: The Danger of Modern Idols

Reading: Exodus 32:1-10; Romans 1:24-25

Devotional: We think we're beyond idolatry because we don't bow to golden statues, but anything that comes between us and God becomes an idol. Family, reputation, money, success—even good things become idols when they take God's rightful place. Jesus said we must love Him more than father, mother, or even our own lives. God's fury toward the golden calf reveals how seriously He takes our worship. He demands first place, not because He's insecure, but because only He deserves it and only He can satisfy our souls. What has crept into the space reserved for God alone? What do you think about most? What drives your decisions? Where do you find your identity? These questions reveal your true worship. Today, identify your idols and dethrone them. Place Jesus where He belongs—as the foundation upon which everything else rests.

Day 4: Sexual Purity in a Broken World

Reading: Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 1:24-27

Devotional: God designed sex as a beautiful gift exclusively for marriage between husband and wife. Every other expression—fornication, adultery, pornography, homosexual acts—falls

outside His design and invites His anger. This isn't because God is restrictive, but because He's protective. Sexual sin uniquely dishonors our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit. Jesus raised the standard even higher, teaching that lustful thoughts constitute adultery of the heart. In our pornography-saturated culture, this battle is fierce and requires radical measures. If you struggle here, you're not alone, but you cannot stay comfortable in sin. Pursue accountability, use technology wisely, and fight for holiness. God welcomes all sinners to His table, but He doesn't affirm us in our sin. He calls us to transformation. Sexual purity is possible through the Spirit's power. What steps will you take today toward freedom?

Day 5: The Gap and the Grace

Reading: Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: Paul's catalog of sins in Romans 1 serves one devastating purpose: to show us the immeasurable gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness. We suppress truth, worship idols, indulge in sexual immorality, gossip, slander, and approve of others' sins. The gap isn't small—it's infinite. No ladder of good works, religious activity, or moral improvement can bridge it. We stand condemned, deserving God's wrath. But here's the miracle: Jesus bridged the gap we could never cross. He absorbed the wrath we deserved. The same God whose fury burns against sin is the God who sent His Son to die for sinners. When we grasp how big the gap truly is, we grasp how magnificent grace truly is. Today, let this reality fill you with worship. You were dead, but Christ made you alive. You were far off, but He brought you near. Worship Him with everything you have.