

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:17-32 TITLE: "The Need for the Gospel"

Intro: I remember growing up in church, being from "good" family. This passage used to bring delight. **Sad.**

Thesis: "God's Wrath is His just punishment of sin, which we all deserve. Why we need Jesus"

I. Deny God (18-23)

- A. **Because** Wrath of God is against sin. "Ungodliness." "Unrighteousness." The state and act of sin.
- B. The fool says in his heart "there is no God." Psalm 14:1. **Jews love this rebuke!**
- C. There is enough evidence of a Creator in nature. *Natural/General Revelation.*
- D. No excuse. Knew God. His glory is manifested. Eternal power and divine nature clearly seen.
- E. **v.32.** They know that death is a just punishment. Through world, sacrificial systems.

ILLUSTRATION: Mayans. All cultures throughout history seem to understand the concept of punishment, justice, retribution, sacrifice, appeasement, satisfaction, death, etc. Conscience.

- F. There is enough in creation to condemn, but not save. We need the Gospel. Revelation of Jesus.
 - 1. **God is Just.** His punishment is just. God's love and holiness are what make Him just.
 - 2. **God is Love.** Love rejoices in the Truth. **1 Cor. 13.**
 - 3. **God is Merciful.** He's patient. Long-suffering. Kindness leads to repentance.
- G. Claiming to be wise, we become fools. Idolatry. God's wrath is Holy No Compromise with sin.
- H. **If sin is no big deal and wrath is no big deal,** then the Cross is no big deal, forgiveness, salvation, mercy, grace no big deal.

II. And He Will Deny You (24-32)

- A. **"God gave them."** (3x; **24, 26, 28**).
 - 1. **To Idolatry.** Foolishness. Their own hurt.
 - 2. **To Dishonorable Passions.** Unnatural relations. Shamelessness. Literally **Male/Female.**
 - 3. **To a Debased Mind.** All kinds of sin. Who's still qualified? Who can stand? Who's exempt?
- B. They not only do them, but they give approval to those who practice them. No shame. Not even hiding their sin in secret, they're doing it proudly and giving approval to others.

ILLUSTRATION: John Bradford. "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." "by the sight of others' sins, men may learn to bewail their own sinfulness". We are capable of any sin, if it wasn't for the grace of God keeping us, protecting us, guiding us, placing us. **We don't actually believe that. I don't!**

- C. **Sin can be trendy.** It can be cool. Praised. Encouraged. Sin is fun! It feels good. If it doesn't, why do it? **If I can do it with no shame, why wouldn't I do it? Guilt & Shame play a role.**
- D. **The Role of Shame.**
 - 1. **To sin without Shame is a scary thing.** To be proud of your sin is scary and sad. To keep us from doing what we know is not approved of by God and culture. Love God. Love others.
 - 2. **Good Shame vs. Overactive Shame.**
 - a) **What does overactive shame do?** Keeps us away from community, relationship, honesty, blame, denial and causes us to hide.
 - b) **Overactive shame says** "you're way worse than others. Can't be forgiven. No hope for you. You're a lost cause. No point in trying. They could never love you or forgive you."
Overactive Shame is a tool of the Devil. Satan is the father of **lies.** Overactive Shame is one of his favorite weapons. But so is no shame at all. Approval of sin.
 - 3. **God's Response to Shame.** He already knows, and love and forgives. Grace. Forgiveness.
 - 4. **The Christian Response to Shame.** Not piling on. It's the Gospel. Grace. Forgiveness.

APPLICATION:

- 1. **Who's exempt?** Who's w/out need of Gospel of God's saving grace? His mercy? Forgiveness. Help.
- 2. **Don't Deny Him. Repent & Believe.** He has now revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. In the Gospel. Natural Revelation tells us the bad news. The Special Revelation of Jesus brings us the Good News. You can be saved. Anyone who believes. Have you denied Him? You can be saved. Even Peter who denied Him 3x before Jesus died for Him on the cross was forgiven and commissioned by Christ to lead the Church. He will do that for you if you turn to Him in repentance and faith. Acknowledge your need and believe in His forgiveness. Anyone!
- 3. **Love Others. About them:** Empathy. Pity. Mercy. Grief. Sadness. Discouraged. Heartbroken. Troubled. Angry. Hurt. Torn up. **Toward them:** Urgent. Longing. Yearning. Praying. Loving. Patient. Gracious. Forgiving. Understanding. Similarities. **About us:** Thankful. Grateful. Humble. Powerless. Dependent. Praying. Striving. Wanting. Desiring. Worship. Joy. Praise. Needy.