

No More Excuses

Part 3

October 14, 2017

I Communion

- A) Communion is the reason the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us
- B) In our remembrance, He is here!

II God's Wrath

A) **SLIDE Romans 1:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men 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 men are without excuse.

B) **SLIDE Isaiah 26:9-10 (NIV)** ⁹ My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.

¹⁰ Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and regard not the majesty of the LORD.

C) **SLIDE** Dale

- 1) God is going to advance us - but with a cost. The amount of warfare is equal to the blessing
- 2) **SLIDE** Great things are ahead. The wilderness is not our home
- 3) **SLIDE** We are not exempt from adversity, but Christ will see us through it
- 4) **SLIDE** Trials work in us to develop patience and endurance
- 5) Any trials, any warfare, and adversity?
- 6) Any of us need to develop patience, endurance, faithfulness?

- 7) In Romans, Paul is describing the wilderness, a world that ignores the evidence of God
- 8) A world that ignores God will oppose us, but we are to count it all joy when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

III **SLIDE** The crux of the matter

A) **Romans 1:21 (NIV)** ²¹ 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.

B) **Romans 1:21 (CJB)** Therefore, they have no excuse; ²¹ because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened.

- 1) Because God has made Himself known to everyone, we are without excuse
- 2) **SLIDE** So what separates the followers of Jesus from everyone else?
- 3) Two vital things:
 - a) Glorifying God as God
 - b) Thanking Him

C) **SLIDE** Glorify Him as God

- 1) Glorify:
 - a) To ascribe honor, to praise
 - b) To recognize
 - c) To exalt
- 2) Paul adds "as God"
- 3) People can acknowledge God but not as God
- 4) They can refer to His Word but not as THE Word
- 5) They will refer to Jesus but not as the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE
- 6) Instead, knowing God, they choose to glorify
 - a) A president
 - b) A football player who kneels during our national anthem

- c) A celebrity who promotes every lifestyle
- d) A woman politician who supports abortion as a right
- 7) But they do not glorify God AS GOD
- 8) When Jesus lived, people glorified Him as a prophet, a teacher, a healer, as Elijah
- 9) They did not glorify Him as Jesus, the Son of God
- 10) What separates us from others is that when praise God, we praise Him as the God of the Universe, El Shaddai, Adonai
- 11) When we glorify and praise Jesus, we are to ascribe all honor to Him as Christ, we are to recognize that He is the only Son of God, we are to exalt Him above all others
- D) **SLIDE** Thanking Him
 - 1) People are constantly taking from God but do not thank Him
 - 2) All over our nation, after disasters, people will pray to God, asking for His help
 - 3) But, after it comes and things improve, they do not thank Him
 - 4) Giving thanks
 - a) Thanks is ours to give
 - b) We are to willingly, lovingly, unabashedly, give thanks to God in all things
 - c) When we look around us, we should be giving God thanks for all of creation
 - d) We thank Him for His blessings and during the trials
- E) **SLIDE** When people know God but do not glorify Him as God or give Him thanks,
 - 1) ...their thinking becomes futile
 - a) Thinking became vain, worthless, without wisdom
 - b) They try to curb evil by passing more laws
 - c) They search for the origin and meaning of life in the rocks of Mars
 - d) They seek to save the world by regulating lawn mowers
 - e) They allow girls to join the Boy Scouts but continue to all it the Boy Scouts

- 2) ...their hearts are darkened
 - a) deprived of light
 - b) ignorance
 - c) filled with moral darkness

IV **SLIDE** The Result

A) 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 mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

B) Claims

- 1) They profess themselves to be wise
- 2) They glorify themselves instead of God
- 3) The claim they know what is best for us, how to save the world, how to fix racism, sexism, crime, bigotry, poverty, health care
- 4) But, in reality, they became fools
 - a) Foolish, dull, not sharp or astute, unwise
 - b) Their wisdom is foolish
 - i) Shoelace as a noose (Michigan State University)
 - ii) Stop nuclear war through diplomacy (Hilary Clinton: we are being too tough on Iran and North Korea)
 - iii) Stop mass shootings by banning silencers
 - iv) Pro-Trump restaurant has to close because of threats

C) **SLIDE** They exchanged God for idols

- 1) Horoscopes
- 2) Astrology
- 3) Sports figures
- 4) Creation instead of the creator
- 5) Science
- 6) Flesh
- 7) Church

D) **SLIDE** What does this mean?

- 1) These messages are not about us vs. them
- 2) They are a warning, a challenge, and an opportunity

- 3) We must not be lulled into their thinking
- 4) We need to guard our hearts and our minds against the influence of humanism, progressivism, all isms
- 5) At the same time, we continue to glorify Jesus as the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Bright Morning Star, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords
- 6) We choose to thank Him because He is Who He says He is
- 7) We thank Him because all good things come from Him alone
- 8) We do not compromise our faith at all, yet we remain humble, caring,

E) **SLIDE** Make the way straight

- 1) These are exciting times
- 2) We can see God moving all around us
- 3) We can feel God moving in us
- 4) Dale: Cornerstone will be a well with water flowing in all directions
- 5) We are to keep the water flowing
- 6) We are to keep the living water of Jesus flowing!