

## Deserved Wrath – Romans 1:18–32



MEMORY VERSE: For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21

### DAY 1 ROMANS 1:18-20 — Suppressed Truth

1. What incurs the wrath of God? v.18
2. What has God revealed about Himself for all to see?
3. Why do you think ungodliness and unrighteousness suppress the truth about God?
4. What further insight does Isaiah 5:20 add to your understanding of this?
5. Why are some people “without excuse” regarding the wrath of God?

### LEARN THE TRUTH

Our attitude toward God is revealed in our choices, and our choices are determined by our beliefs. We can believe truth or we can exchange truth for a lie. Ask God to help you recognize the difference between truth and lies, and to transform your life as you believe and embrace truth.

### DAY 2 ROMANS 1:21-23 — The Path of Rejecting God

6. Describe the progression that happens when people choose to reject God.
7. Why do you think failing to honor and thank God leads to futile thinking and darkened hearts?

8. How can a person claim to be wise but actually be a fool? See also 1 Corinthians 1:18-20
9. How can a person actually gain the wisdom of God? Proverbs 2:1-12
10. What common excuses do people make for rejecting God? Why are such excuses foolish?

### DAY 3 ROMANS 1:24-27 — Exchanging Truth for a Lie

11. What does God do when people continue to reject Him? v.24
12. How does verse 25 describe the mindset and behavior of such people?
13. In what dishonorable passions that go against nature will some people indulge?
14. Why is sexual sin especially harmful to us? 1 Corinthians 6:13,18-20
15. Why is God's plan for sexuality and marriage so important for understanding the gospel?  
Ephesians 5:25-33

### DAY 4 ROMANS 1:28-30 — A Debased Mind

16. What is the root cause of a debased or depraved mind?
17. What is the effect or evidence of a "debased mind?"

18. Have you ever seen this extreme negative progression happening in your life? If not why not?
19. We all struggle with sin, often the same sin over and over. No one but Jesus is perfect, and thus worthy of being our Savior. What insight does 1 John 3:1-10 give regarding habitual sin?
20. What should we do when we sin? 1 John 1:8-10

## **DAY 5** ROMANS 1:32 – God’s Forgiveness, or His Wrath?

21. What are the two signs of a truly debased mind?
22. God made everyone in His own image. He loves us all and sent His Son for each one of us. Why then does He give those who reject Him over to their own passions and sin?
23. Why do you think people keep on practicing sin instead of practicing righteousness, knowing that doing so means they are incurring God’s wrath?
24. Compare verse 32 with verses 16-17. What is needed in life?
25. Look again at the sinful progression in Romans 1:18-32. What opposite attitudes and actions from those sins should we adopt so we can be righteous, living by faith?

### **LOVE THE TRUTH**

Reading about the wrath of God is frightening, but remember, God loves us and does not “wish that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) May your faith in Christ and resulting lifestyle reveal truth rather than suppress it, so that others may come to know and follow God.

## Romans 1:18-32

### Deserved Wrath

We live in a time where the very concept of “the wrath of God” is not only rejected, but mocked. Instead of honoring God and seeking Biblical truth, it is common to embrace what people call “their own truth,” which places emotions and experience above actual truth. While painful experiences do affect one’s perspective, they do not change what God says is true. Biblical truth is actually more important than ever for one who has been wounded. A philosophy based on anything other than the Word of God does the very thing that brings on the wrath of God- it suppresses truth!

It’s been said that God deals as gently with us as He can and as harshly as He must. He first gently reveals Himself through creation where we see His strength, creativity, power, order and beauty. “The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (Psalm 19:1-4) And this is only what we see in the heavens! Think of the oceans, rivers, wildlife, birds, flowers, and the human body. We are without excuse if we do not see evidence of God’s power, love and goodness through His creation.

When people refuse to follow the Lord after He has revealed Himself through creation and the Bible, God will then be harsh in order to get their attention. They are free to reject God and when they do, He gives them over to their own evil desires. The wrath of God is real and it is deserved by those who reject Him. This is harsh, but just, and often the only way some will finally recognize their own depravity and need for a Savior.

Rejecting God begins with some knowledge that He is God, but refusing to repent, honor and follow Him. This is not a mistake or a momentary lapse but rather

deliberate rebellion. We are free to rebel against God, but we are not free from the consequences of rebellion. The progression of evil when rejecting God is staggering, culminating not only in the practice of every kind of sin but also in the approval and even celebration of sin indulged in by others. This mindset suppresses truth because it exchanges the fact that Jesus died to pay our deserved death penalty for sin for the lie that sin does not really matter and does not actually lead to death. But true love does not lie. True love “speaks the truth in love.” (Ephesians 4:15) And the one who truly loves God practices righteousness instead of sin. (1 John 3:9-10)

### WALK IN TRUTH



God may “give some people up to the lusts of their hearts,” but this does not mean He gives up on them! God is FOR us! He is FOR you! When we repent, He forgives us and gives us His Holy Spirit to help us become people who are “righteous, living by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

Do not be deceived, the unrighteous practitioners of sin will not inherit the kingdom of God. But Paul also said, “And such **were** some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) Have you been washed by the blood of Jesus?

Righteousness is not a prerequisite for God’s love, but rather a **result** of His love. Here on earth, we will still sin, but whatever we make a habit of practicing reveals the true condition of our hearts. Practice righteousness rather than sin, and you will experience grace and peace.