
AMEN Bible Study 2025

“Why the World Needs the Gospel”

Romans 1:18-32
September 18, 2025

Introduction

I. **WHY God’s Wrath is Revealed – (v.18-23)**

A. **Key Assertion – “We Suppress THE TRUTH about God” (v.18-20)**

1. In our CREATED HUMANITY, we Deeply KNOW Something of GOD
In our FALLEN HUMANITY, We Deeply SUPPRESS that KNOWLEDGE

B. **This is a Counter-Intuitive Reality (v.19-20)**

1. Moderns say: “Show me the evidence, and I’ll believe in God”
2. Jesus says to us (thru Paul):
 - a. We KNOW the truth
 - b. God has “CLEARLY” made Himself known to us
 - c. What can be known of God is “PLAIN” to us, because God has “SHOWN it”

C. **Our LOVES are so corrupted, we insist on De-GODDING God (v.21-23)**

1. Suppressing the **GODNESS** of God
2. Suppressing the **GOODNESS** of GOD

D. **We Worship ANYTHING/ANYONE, EXCEPT the only One Worthy of it!**

E. **This is WHY God’s Wrath is being presently, constantly revealed against “godlessness”**

1. John Stott: “The Wrath of God...is (1) His holy hostility to evil, (2) his refusal to come to terms with it, (3) His just judgment upon it.”

II. HOW God's Wrath is Revealed – (v.24-32)

A. God's Wrath IS being revealed (v.18)

1. God's wrath is now, presently, continuously being revealed
2. It is one Distinctive Form of Wrath
3. Key manifestation of His Wrath:
By trying to De-GOD God, God lets us De-HUMANIZE Ourselves!!! (v.25)

B. We De-Humanize the CREATEDNESS of Ourselves -- (v.26-27)

1. One Sin is mentioned with extra attention: Homosexuality
2. Theological Liberals – tend to deny this is sinful in any way
3. Theological Conservatives – tend to single this sin out
4. Why this Extra Attention on Homosexuality?

C. We Dehumanize one another in EVERY WHICH WAY (v.28-32)

1. Listing vices – defy neat classification
2. Tim Keller on this list of vices: (*Romans 1-7*, 35)
 - a. economic disorder – “covetousness (greed?)” (v.29) (cf. Eccl. 4)
 - b. social disorder – “envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander” (v.29)
 - c. family disorder (“disobey parents” v.30)
3. Ray Ortlund, Jr. on Isaiah 8:9: “We know that God is more real than [any earthly thing]. We know He is more desirable than worldly attractions. We know He is faithful.... And to refuse what we ourselves know to be true tears us apart inside.... The human being unravels.... Everything in life, not just religion, flows out of our whole-souled movement toward Christ.” (*Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, p.89)

Conclusion

AMEN Action Steps

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HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18

1. As counterintuitive as this question may seem, What does this passage reveal about the compassion God has for us sinners? (hint: what are a few of the reasons why Jesus reveals to the woman at the well that he knows all about her sex life [Jn. 4:17-18]?)
2. We often think of this passage as the preeminent expression of “the bad news” that makes necessary the “good news” of the Gospel. But how might this text itself be “good news” to someone who’s read all the self-help books but can’t break free of humiliating addictions?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
-Matthew 7:24

1. As I think about the things of life that tend to make me miserable, how might my misery be evidence that I’m worshipping an idol(s) that dehumanizes me (and my loved ones)?
2. Can I think of a time when “God gave me over”, even if for a period of time, to a warped, delusional, self-deceived way of life? How did he get me to see the truth and change?

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19

1. When a Presbyterian pastor’s wife named Rosaria Butterfield was still unconverted and a practicing lesbian, she asked church members one Sunday morning: “what did you have to give up to follow Jesus?” How would you respond to her question if she, or one of your unbelieving friends, asked you the same question?
2. How does Rom. 1 reframe “swagger,” such that we become like the woman at the well: “Come see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” (Jn. 4:29)