

ROMANS: PART 4 EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL

God's Righteous Condemnation of the Pagan (1st message)
"What About Those Who Have Never Heard?"
Romans 1:18-23

REVELATION: All People Clearly Know That God Is There. 1:18-20.

1. This revelation is a universal revelation of God. Vs 18. "*men*" = all people.
2. This revelation is a clear revelation of God. Vs 19. "*evident*" (φανερὸς) = plain, manifest.
 - He is evident within them (internally).
 - He is evident to them (externally).
3. This revelation is a natural revelation of God. Vs 20. "*through what has been made.*"
 - Creation is a glorious theater that points to God. Ps 19:1-6; Job 38:15-17.
 - Creation is a clearly visible (kata + horao = καθόραο) pointer to the invisible (a + horao = αόρατος) God.
 - Creation: "*what has been made*" = poiema, ποιήμα, poem. It's a piece of art. Hence an Artist!
 - He is evident "out there" in the macro-world & micro-world. (Cosmology & providence).
 - He is evident "in me" in my body, soul, conscience. (Epistemology, Axiology, Teleology, etc.)
4. This revelation is a constant revelation of God. Vs 20. "*for since the creation of the world*"
 - It is not now & then. It is always there.
 - It is not here & there. It is everywhere.
5. This revelation is a universally perceived revelation of God. Vs 20. "*clearly seen*"
 - Every person knows God exists -- deep inside they know.
 - Every person does not know God in a saving way.
 - But every person does *know* Him to be a reality (no "pink elephants").
6. This revelation eliminates excuses. Vs 20b.
 - The excuse would be *ignorance*. No one can claim it.
 - They may have never heard of Jesus Christ, but they did know God -- and rejected Him!

REJECTION: Lost People Suppress the Knowledge of God They Know Is There. 1:18.

1. Lost people "katecho" (κατέχω hold down, hold back, restrain, repress, suppress) the knowledge of God.
2. Lost people suppress this knowledge because they do not *want* the true God! Rom 3:11; 8:5-8.
 - The problem is moral not intellectual. "*In unrighteousness*"
 - The problem is they do not like God. They are ungodly (anti-God), unrighteous (anti-good).
 - The problem is they hate God:
 - Sovereignty: Ps 2 (CF I Chron 29:10-13). I don't want Him running my life.
 - Holiness: Isa 6:1-5; Hab 3:16; Job 42:6; Lk 5:8 (Cf. Rev 4:8). He is *Other* than me, He's *holy*.
 - Omniscience & Immutability: Ps 139. He *always* sees me. He will *never* change.

REPLACEMENT: Lost People Exchange God for "gods" they invent in their Own Image. 1:21f

1. Alternative religion is not a product of people seeking God.
2. Alternative religion is a product of people rejecting the knowledge of the True God.
3. The universal reaction to God is Idolatry!
4. No one sincerely seeks Him in their own way...
5. Rather they sincerely turn from Him to something else (though their idols are made of clay).
 - They make an intentional theological shift, because the True God is repugnant to them.
 - They trade God in for something less sovereign, infinite, majestic, holy.
 - Their new religion can be formal: animism, polytheism, pantheism, existentialism, naturalism, nihilism, secular humanism, agnosticism, atheism, etc.
 - Their new religion can be informal: sports, music, art, things (Mammon), etc.

CONCLUSION: It is not too late return to the One True God.