

## 1. The ROOT:

Godlessness = Trying to live AS IF there is NO GOD

### 1) REPRESSING the truth about God

...they try to **suppress the truth** by their immoral living...  
(v. 18b, GWT)

### 2) REJECTING the truth about God

For even though they knew God, they **did not honor Him** as God, or **give thanks**....  
(v. 21a, NASB)

✓ How? By refusing to...

- WORSHIP GOD
- THANK GOD

### 3) REPLACING the truth about God

They **traded the glory of God** who lives forever for the **worship of idols**...  
(v. 23, NCV)

- FACT: The true IDENTITY of idols: “SELF”

## 2. The FRUIT:

Wickedness = Living WITHOUT ANY RULES

### 1) IMMORALITY (cf. Jude 1:7)

God gave them over in the sinful desires...to **sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies** with one another. (v. 24)

### 2) PERVERSION (cf. 1 Cor. 6:18)

God handed them over to **disgraceful** passions. Their women **exchanged the normal practices** of sexual intercourse for something **which is abnormal and unnatural**. Similarly, the men, **turning from natural intercourse** with women...**burned** with lust for each other...Men with men performed these **shameful horrors, receiving in their own personalities the consequences of their perversity**. (v. 26-27, Ph./NLT)

### 3) DEPRAVITY (cf. 2 Tim. 3:8)

Since they did not see fit to **acknowledge God**, God gave them up to a **debased mind**...and let them **do things that should never be done**... They were **filled with all manner of**

**unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice**. They are **full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness**. They are **gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless**...They know God's justice requires that **those who do these things deserve to die**, yet they do them anyway. **Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too**.

(v. 28-32, ESV/NLT)

### ✓ “the inability to DISCERN RIGHT from WRONG”

They've **refused for so long to deal with God** that they've **lost touch** not only with God but **with reality itself**. They **can't think straight anymore**. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, **addicted to every sort of perversion**.  
Eph. 4:18-19 (Msg.)

## IV. The Results of Man's Response

### 1. INEXCUSABLE culpability

There is...**no possible defence** for their conduct. (v. 20, NEB)

### 2. IDIOTIC theology

They began to **think up foolish ideas of what God was like**. The **result** was that **their minds became dark and confused**. Claiming to be wise, they **became utter fools** instead.  
(v. 21b-22, NLT)

### 3. INDEFENSIBLE logic

They **exchanged the truth** of God **for a lie**... (v. 25)

#### 2 Illogical self-deceptions:

1) You can SIN & GET AWAY with it (cf. Psa. 10:13)

2) You can LIVE WITHOUT GOD

The God-deniers, the Messiah-defiers [say]: “**Let's get free of God! Cast loose from Messiah!**”...**God breaks out laughing. At first He's amused at their presumption; Then He gets good and angry**.  
Psa. 2:2b-5a (Msg.)

## V. God's Reaction: He DISPLAYS His WRATH

For the **wrath of God is revealed** from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men....** (v. 18, NASB)

● Wrath = A holy God's **PROPER ATTITUDE** toward sin  
God is a **righteous judge**, a **God who expresses His wrath every day.**  
Psa. 7:11

✓ Why God gets angry: Because sin **DESTROYS LIFE**  
And **sin** when fully grown **produces death**—make **no mistake about that**, brothers of mine!  
James 1:15 (Ph.)

✓ HOW? God abandons people to the **CONSEQUENCES**  
of their **OWN SINNING**

God **gave them over** to... (v. 24, 26, 28)

● **POINT:** God lets people **HAVE WHAT** they

**THINK** they **WANT**

So God said, in effect, **“If that’s what you want, that’s what you get.”** It wasn’t long before they were living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. And **all this because they traded the true God for a fake god, and worshiped the god they made** instead of the God who made them.  
(v. 24-25, Msg.)

## 👉 First Step: Give your LIFE TO JESUS now

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### HOW TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

**Admit...**that I am a sinner and need God's forgiveness Rom. 3:23

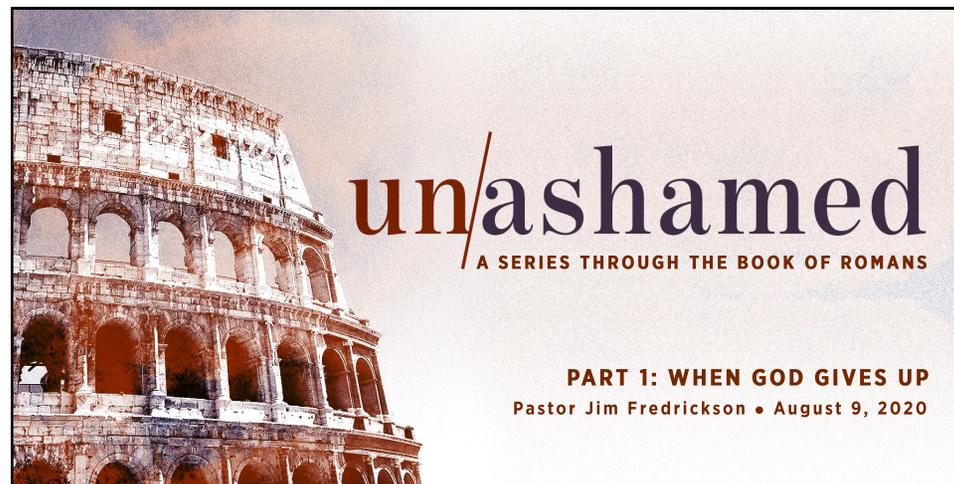
**Repent...**Turn away from my sins and turn to God. Rom. 3:22; Acts 3:19

**Believe...**that Jesus died on the cross for me and showed He was God by coming back to life again. 1 Cor. 15:2-4, Rom. 10:9, Col. 2:14

**Receive...**Jesus into my life as my new Boss. John 1:12; Rom. 12:2

● If you're willing to take these steps, sincerely pray this prayer in your heart:

"Dear God, I know You love me. I believe You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins and that He rose from the dead. I'm sorry I've lived for myself and I ask for Your forgiveness for all my sins. I want You to be the Boss of my life and live the way You want me to. Amen."



## ROMANS 1:18-32

1. Sin	1:18-3:20
2. Salvation	3:21-5:21
3. Sanctification	6:1-8:39
4. Sovereignty	9:1-11:36
5. Service	12:1-15:13

### I. Man can see the EVIDENCE for GOD in creation

For the **truth about God is known to them instinctively**. God has put this **knowledge in their hearts**. From the time **the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made**. They can **clearly see His invisible qualities --His eternal power and divine nature**. (v. 19-20, NLT)

1. The **REALITY** of God (cf. Psa. 19:1-2)
2. The **POWER** of God (cf. Acts 17:24-25)
3. The **GOODNESS** of God (cf. Acts 14:15b-17)

### II. The Proper Response to the Witness of Creation:

For **although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him...** (v. 21a)

✓ **GRATEFUL** worship of & **SUBMISSION** to God

### III. Mankind's Actual Response