

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Romans

TITLE: The Tour of the Human Condition

SCRIPTURE: Romans 1:18-23

DATE: September 10, 2017

PASTOR: Jonathan R. Parker

The book of Romans is a masterfully written exposition of the gospel of God. Without a doubt, it is the foundation of authentic Christianity and the most articulate, systematic understanding of our faith found in the Bible. Countless lives have been changed by the truth found in this ancient letter, and it continues to change lives today. Interestingly enough, Romans was written to Christians. So, while the good news found in Romans can certainly bring people to faith in Jesus, the actual focus is on how the gospel helps Christians think rightly about God, life, faith, and Christian community. If you want to grow to know God more personal and intimate way, this letter is for you!

Big Idea: The wrath of God is an uncomfortable topic. However, we cannot duck, dodge, or dismiss talking about God's wrath for if we do we dilute grace. Wrath is what we deserve. Grace means God doesn't give us what we deserve. Grace makes no sense unless it's contrasted with the dark background of wrath. In this dark background of wrath, Paul begins the tour of the human condition.

I. The Reality

A. Wrath of God is Being Revealed (v. 18)

B. God has made Himself Known (v. 19)

The result of this reality, that God's wrath is being revealed and God has revealed Himself through creation, is people are without excuse.

II. The Reasons

A. Ungodliness (v.18)

B. Unrighteousness (v. 18)

C. Suppressing the Truth (v. 18)

D. Did Not Honor (v. 21)

E. Were Not Grateful (v. 21)

F. Became Fools (v. 22)

G. Exchanged Glory for Glimpses (v.23)

The wrath of God is being revealed against those who practice idolatry and immorality while suppressing the truth about God. Even though God has kindly and divinely revealed himself in all creation; people have chosen to spend their time attempting to disprove His existence which leaves them ungrateful, dishonoring, and foolish in their thinking and living. This all results in exchanging the greater for the lesser.

III. Our Response

A. Our Human Condition

B. Our Faith Condition

This tour of the human condition is vital for our understanding of the pit of hopelessness we were in, and the power of God that saved us. The only appropriate response to such grace is our worship of the great God who saves.

For Discussion ...

1. Have you forgotten the condition in which you were saved from? If so, why do you think that is? If not, what have you done to regularly remind yourself?
2. In what areas of life do you reflect people who are under wrath rather than in faith?
3. At times, how have you been the Pharisee in Jesus' parable? When was the last time you were the tax collector?
4. What about the Gospel are you not believing which is causing you to feel hopeless?
5. What can this group of people do or who do you need to find to help you continue to be reminded of the power of the Gospel that saved you from your hopeless human condition?