



The Book of Romans

How to be Right with God

(Romans 1:18-23)

Context:

- The 5 cycles of Paul's persuasive argument concerning justification.



Cycle 5: The Explanation Concerning Israel 9:1-11:32

Cycle 4: The Permanency of Justification 8:1-39

Cycle 3: The Benefits of Justification 5:1-7:25

Cycle 2: The Only Means Of Justification 3:21-4:25

Cycle 1: The Universal Need For Justification 1:18-3:20

Context:

- The 5 cycles of Paul's persuasive argument concerning justification.
- The Cycle argument follows this format:
 - The cycle (theme) presented
 - The hypophora argumentation (Q and A)

The Universal Need of Justification:

Because of Human Unrighteousness,
and God's Wrath

***Read Romans 1:18-23

Outline:

1. The revelation of wrath v. 18a
2. The target of wrath v. 18b
3. The reason for wrath vv. 18c-23

The revelation of wrath: v18a

- The origins of this revelation:
 - God “of God” v. 18
 - Heaven “from heaven” v. 18
 - Cf. Creator-creature distinction

The target of God's wrath: v18b

- Ungodliness of men (lack of reverence)
- Unrighteousness of men (wrong practice)

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The reason...

- Truth suppression v. 18c

① to prevent the doing of someth. or cause to be ineffective, prevent, hinder, restrain - BDAG

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The reason...
- The truth that's being suppressed...

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The truth that's being suppressed...
 - What God has made readily known v. 19

19 Because the knowledge of God is readily known to them, for God has made it readily known to them.

[my translation]

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The truth that's being suppressed...
 - What God has made readily known v. 19
 - His intangibles v. 20a

20 For since the creation of the world His intangibles are discerned clearly from the creation,

[my translation]



The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The truth that's being suppressed...
 - What God has made readily known v. 19
 - His intangibles v. 20a
 - His eternal power and Deity v. 20
 - Making humans inexcusable v. 20d

20 For since the creation of the world His intangibles are discerned clearly from the creation, both His eternal power and deity, so that they are to be without excuse. [my translation]

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The reason...
- The truth that's being suppressed...
- The elaboration on truth suppression...

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The elaboration on truth suppression...
 - “they did not glorify Him as God” v. 21a
 - “nor were thankful” v. 21a
 - Self-delusion v. 22
 - Ironic (moronic?) idolatry v. 23

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

21 Because while knowing God, they did not honor God nor give thanks, but they became worthless in their reasoning, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Always claiming to be wise, but made foolish, 23 and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God with likeness of image of corruptible man, bird, four footed animals, and reptiles.

[my translation]

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The reason...
- The truth that's being suppressed...
- The elaboration on truth suppression...
- The results of truth suppression...

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The results of truth suppression...
 - Become “futile in their thoughts” (worthless reasoning)
 - Acquire a “foolish hearth” (cf. Psalm 14:1)
 - Their “foolish hearts are darkened” (this is the judgment. How? Cf. Mt. 23:15)

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

The Chain:

The truth of God →

truth suppression →

worthless reasoning →

foolish hearted (cf. Ps. 14:1) →

darkened heart

The reason for wrath: v18c-23

- The results of truth suppression...
 - Become “futile in their thoughts” (worthless reasoning)
 - Acquire a “foolish hearth” (cf. Psalm 14:1)
 - Their “foolish hearts are darkened” (this is the judgment. How? Cf. Mt. 23:15)
 - Can a person with a “darkened heart” be saved? (cf. Ephesians 4:17-24; Romans 11:25)

Application:

- Why doesn't God just destroy the ungodly and unrighteous rather than darkening their heart? (Rev. 3:18-23)
- How does this text reveal the origins of idolatry?
- If men are without excuse based on natural revelation what about those with special revelation?