

Romans 1:18-32

“No Excuse”

January 18, 2026

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God's nature is visible to all (verses 18-23)

- God's invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – are visible in creation.
- Creation tells the story of a detailed and attentive God who is intimately involved in the story of humankind.

Humankind turns to sin (verses 24-27)

- Paul describes the idolatry of humans worshipping anything in place of God.
- Worshipping the creature instead of the Creator leads to all manner of evil desires and immorality – we see this in the devaluation of marriage and pervasiveness of sexual sin.

The depravity of humankind (verses 28-32)

- Humans will either acknowledge God or turn away to all manner of sin and unrighteousness.
- A clear sign of the condition of someone's heart is when they know what is wrong, yet applaud or participate in it.
- We should be broken (both sorrowful and righteously angry) over the sin that affects our world... including our own.

A kingdom-minded servant of Jesus sees the sin in our lives and in the world and wants to bring the gospel to bear on it all.

Notes on Today's Message

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- As a child, what was the best excuse you ever gave when a parent or other adult caught you doing something wrong?

Read

- Romans 1:18-32

Observe

- Verse 17 describes the righteous life. In verse 18, we see the unrighteous life. How are the two different?
- What do we learn about God from nature in verses 19-21? (See also Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 139:13-15)
- Compare verse 18 with verse 25. What is the root problem Paul describes?
- How is a mind that does not “see fit to acknowledge God” become one that is “debased” (depraved)? What is the result?

Apply

- Why do people worship creation instead of the Creator? How does this lead to the evils described by Paul?
- When does “freedom” become a deadly trap?
- How would you explain God’s wrath to someone who believes that people are basically good?

Prayer

- *Search out* those areas of your life where you have substituted idols for God.
- *Confess* those sins to God. *Repent* and receive his forgiveness.

Recommended Commentaries on Romans

- *Romans for You*, Tim Keller (The Good Book Company)
- *Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*, F. F. Bruce (IVP Academic)
- The Letter to the Romans (*New International Commentary on the New Testament*), Douglas Moo (Eerdmans)