

Romans 1:18-23
“Heart Trouble”

~ INTRO ~

OK... LET’S BEGIN...

- By understanding how God’s power is working in us & for us.

(v.17) THE WORD...

- “*Righteousness*” simply means **right clothing**.
 - We’re clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

WE LOVE TO MEASURE OURSELVES...

- Downward against our fellow man.
 - (I’m doing better than he is... so I must NOT be that bad).
- But the real measurement is alway upward against a Holy God.
 - (Isa. 6:5) NLT – “*I am doomed for I am a sinful man...*”

(Isa. 64:6) NLT

“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.”

THE POINT IN ROMANS IS:

- 1) God is righteous
 - 2) God demands righteousness
 - 3) God is the one who provides the righteousness
- “*The Gospel according to God’s Grace.*”

(Phil 3:9) NLT

“... I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.”

NOW HERE’S A TRANSITION...

- From (v.17) into (v.18)... AND the tone switches gears...
 - From those that **walk by faith**...
 - To those that **REFUSE to** walk by faith!

IDEA #1 – THE WRATH OF GOD: (v.18)

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A FEW TERMS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND:

- 1) **Un-godliness** = Man to God sin (Ex. 20:1-11)
 - It addresses the thoughts & deeds of man toward God.
 - It describes a person’s attitude & actions that disregard God.
- 2) **Un-righteousness** = Man to man sin (Ex. 20:12-17)
 - Defined as a violation of divine law...
 - Which covers how a person relates to other humans.

PAUL SAYS...

- That God’s wrath is reveal against those...
 - That are **stubborn & self-determined**...
 - To do their own thing... their own way!
 - They “*suppress the truth*”

WHY?

(2 Thess. 2:10)

“... *Because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*”

IDEA #2 – THE LIGHT OF CREATION: (vv.19-20)

GOD HAS AN EXPECTATION...

- For man to use common sense... (plain observable knowledge)...
 - When looking at creation.
 - (Psalm 19:1-4a) NLT

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO TRY TO EXPLAIN AWAY GOD...

- By twisting creation!
 - And... **man-to-man** they may get away with it.
 - But God says that are *without excuse* (v.20).

(v.19) NLT –

“*They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them.*”

IT’S BEEN SAID...

- Napoleon was walking with his generals one night...

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- Discussing the existence of God.
 - AND as they talked...
 - Napoleon **pointed** to the **stars** and said...

“If you’re going to get rid of God, you must get rid of those.”

WHEN GOD... **IS**... DISREGARDED...

- People to do *what is right in their own eyes*... (Judges 21:25).

IDEA #3 – THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL: (vv.21-23)

Paul continues speaking about the secular-man...

- Who’s in need of the *Gospel of grace*!

(Eph. 4:17-20) NLT

(v.21) They “*became futile in their thoughts...*”

- Literally: **They feel into error**...
 - And produced meaningless conclusions.

(v.22) “*They became fools...*”

- This is **NOT** speaking of intellect.
 - It’s addressing a distorted **moral condition**.

AGAIN... THIS DESCRIBES A PERSON...

- Who has been cultivated into **NOT** believing in god.

(Atheist.org ~ 2018) “*If you call yourself a humanist, freethinker, bright, or even a “cultural Catholic” ... you are an atheist.*”

ON THE OTHER HAND...

*The English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley coined the word **agnostic** in 1869, and said, “It simply means that a man shall not say he knows or believes that which he has no scientific grounds for professing to know or believe.”*

THIS IS NOT NEW TO THE SCRIPTURES...

- In (Acts 17:23) Paul came into the highest court in Athens...
 - Known as “*the Areopagus*” – which met next to Mars Hill.

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- AND... he spoke to them about the UNKNOWN GOD...
 - Literal Greek = (*Ag-nos-tos*) = Unknown

~ IN CLOSING ~

WHAT’S THE POINT?

CASTING ALL THE TERMS ASIDE...

- It’s nothing more than “Heart Trouble!”

JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE PEOPLE...

- But each one of us has a freewill choice.
 - I want to encourage you to accept God’s grace...
 - And renew your life in Jesus today!