

Wrath—or a Heckuva Deal

Week 2 - Romans 1:18 - 32

Objectives:

- To discuss the wrath of God against people's sinfulness.
- To take away that there is absolutely NO way for us to be saved except through God.

? Have you ever made a good deal? Was it a bad deal for the other person? How about the converse—a bad deal for you that was a good deal for someone else?

I'd Wrath-er Not Experience This!

Recap: What did we study last week? Last week we studied the first half of Romans 1. We are called to serve God by spreading the gospel and living in a righteous and faithful way.

Read Romans 1:18–23 NIV:

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

? Take a moment to look over the passage. What stands out about it to you?

? What is God's wrath? Why was God wrathful?

? Since God's nature is evident, He was more angry at those hiding the truth than if they just didn't know (vs. 19–20). Have you ever been in a situation where someone lying made you more angry than if they had just told the truth?

? Verse 23 says, "[They] exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles." Does this seem like a good deal to you? This does not seem like a good exchange. Why do you think people did this? (Cross-reference with Exodus 32, where the Israelites—even though God had literally led them out of Egypt mere days before through a series of more than ten miracles!—rejected God and made a golden calf to worship.)

? When are you tempted to eschew God and follow something else in your life?

Plunging into Sin

Read Romans 1:24–32 NIV:

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

? Take a moment to look over the passage. What stands out about it to you?

? Verse 32 says, “Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.” Why do you think that happens? What is the motivation of those people?

? How can you resist the temptation to give in to behaviors that pull you away from God?

For Discussion and Accountability

? What part or parts of this passage have made you feel convicted? In what way?

? What do you need to specifically resist this week? How can we be encouraging one another to seek God this week?