

Series: Our Hope (6/11/17)

Title: Is God Just?

Text: Rom 1:19-20

Our HOPE in Jesus (Col 1:27)

Our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13)

Our Hope & Resurrection (Acts 23:6) Rapture

Our Hope in the End Times (Rev 1:19)

Our Hope in Christ, not the Antichrist (2 Thes 2)

Our Hope in Heaven apart from the great Tribulation

The argument rests on this question, “*Is God Just*”?

“*Is God Righteous to Judge the World & not Forgive?*”

The reason being, if God condemned men and women to hell without the opportunity to know of Him, He would be unjust.

We know this is not the case because of (Rom 1:16).

(Rom 1:16) “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

Open to Everyone

(2 Pet 3:9) “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

These verses clearly teach that the Lord is no respecter of persons, and that He has no desire for any man, women, or child to go to hell.

Jesus taught in (Matt 25:41) that hell was not a place meant for mankind, & he would be an intruder there.

(Matt 25:41) “*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”*

The Question Remains, Is God Just?

Let’s do a little Bible study today!

(Rom 1:15) *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*

Paul wanted to preach the Gospel! Why?

(Rom 1:16) “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

Paul knew that the gospel was the only hope for mankind! Why?

I. The Sentence of Mankind:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

God’s wrath is impending against humanity.

wrath (orgh orge) has the sense of His righteous anger. It is being revealed from heaven because of the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

Specifically, b/c men “**hold the truth in unrighteousness.**” **Hold** has the sense to hold down, suppress, hinder. All men know the truth of God in their heart but suppress it.

The Ruse of ‘separation of church & state’ in the public sector.

Attacking the integrity thereof in the academic world.
Or simply ignoring it altogether personally.

They willingly deceive themselves and others.
That, as much as their sin itself, has provoked the wrath of
God against them.

Why is God's wrath impending against Humanity?
**19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest
in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.**

In Rom 1:19-20, Paul, under the inspiration of God the Holy
Spirit, explains that all men, everywhere, without exception
has the opportunity to know God and believe on Him.

Vs 19. ***“that which may be known of God...”***
If it *“may be known”* then it is available to be known.

Vs 19 ***“Is manifest in them”*** God gave them an internal
witness.
Sinful man has an innate knowledge of God in his heart, yet
he has suppressed that truth.

Vs 19 ***“for God hath shewed it unto them”***
It would have been enough to condemn man on the mere fact
that God can be known, & that knowledge is manifested in us;

God took it a step farther and ***“hath shewed it unto us”***.
Verse 20 explains it perfectly.
That innate, inborn knowledge of God is augmented by the
witness of creation.

**20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the
world are clearly seen, being understood by the things
that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so
that they are without excuse:**

The majesty, beauty, order, and precision of the creation from
the macrocosm of the heavens to the microcosm of biology
reveal there is a righteous, orderly, majestic God.
(Psalm 19:1) *“the heavens declare the glory of God”*.

Paul further points out that the ***“invisible things of Him”***
His spiritual attributes, righteousness, holiness, & glory, are
obvious from the creation itself.

The nature of the Righteous Judge is thus revealed from His
creation. (Psalm 97:6) *The heavens declare his righteousness,
and all the people see his glory*

Those attributes of God ***“are clearly seen”*** from His
handiwork.

The perfection of the creation itself reveals God's ***“eternal
power and Godhead.”*** (Trinity)

The Creation is a Trinity of Trinities!

Time:	Past, Present, Future
Space:	Length, Width, Height
Matter:	Solid, Liquid, Gas

Ungodly men understand this in their hearts even if they
suppress it through the pretense of evolution.

Therefore, ***“they are without excuse.”***
The sense of being ‘indefensible’ legally and judicially.

Paul, continues to lay the legal foundation for the coming indictment of all mankind, the whole world is guilty before God.

Rejection of (Gen 1:1) *“In the beginning, God created...”*
Naturally leads to the Rejection of (Gen 2) 1st home.
Bears the fruit of (Gen 3) Idolatry. (Self Esteem)

II. The Indictment of Mankind: (Gen 3)

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
Men have a knowledge of God, Adam and Eve knew God in the garden.

Mankind’s knowledge of God:

(1) an innate inborn knowledge placed in every man.

(2) the general revelation of God through creation.

Man aggravated his guiltiness by failing to glorify God or be thankful to Him.

Therefore, humanity ***“became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened.”***

Imaginations, one’s thought processes or intellectual ability

Sin has diminished and darkened both our mental processes as well as our heart, the very seat of our human spirit. We are therefore much damaged thereby.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

(Ps 14:1a) **The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.***

The words *“there is”* are in italics.

They are not in the Hebrew text, but were inserted by the translators, to add understanding.

The Hebrew text simply says,

“The fool hath said in his heart, No God!”

They are saying in rebellion & disobedience ***No God but Me!***

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

The word *changed* has the idea of ‘exchanging.’

The whole concept is an oxymoron—a statement of absurdity.

Moronic mankind has exchanged the glory of the infinitely, holy, incorruptible God for that of corruptible men and lesser creatures, down to even snakes.

No god but ME!

Is God Just to Judge Mankind? Yes - We Chose it!

(Rom 1:15-16) This is why We Must Preach the Gospel!

God is Just to Judge Mankind!

God Will Judge Mankind!

III. The Sentencing of Mankind: Self Will/Autonomy

(Rom 1:24-32) The Bible tells how God shows His wrath.

God will not dismiss sin, but will judge it: (Gal 6:7-8)

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

The Words, “*reap corruption*” is very fitting for the wrath mentioned here in Romans chapter 1.

I. The wrath of God is justly executed upon man, because he always chooses to walk after his own lust, and reap the reward of it.

(Rom 1:24) *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

“through the lusts of their own hearts”.

In giving free will to man, they always choose to live far below the blessed life God has promised us.

(John 10:10b) *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

II. In Wrath, God “gave them up to uncleanness.”

As the crowning achievement of God’s creation, created in His own image, mankind is allowed the free will from God to dishonor himself. We mar God’s image, and thus abdicate the glory God gave to man as a special creation.

(Vs 25) *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

Instead of Ruling over the Creation, we have it rule over us.

III. In wrath, Vs 26 tells us God gives man up to “vile affections”.

(Rom 1:26) *For this cause God gave them up unto **vile affections:** for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

God’s wrath condemns them to live an unfruitful life. God created the home to be the marriage between one man and one woman for one lifetime.

Biblical Marriage, which is violated by the reference here in scripture, was meant for pleasure, & the propagation of the species.

(Gen 1:28) *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”*

The command to “*be fruitful, and multiply*” is violated here by this behavior.

Even God’s creation, which has knowledge of God; in all its beastly behavior does not behave itself like this.

Man is reduced from a position of authority to exercise dominion, to a level below the animals; as seen by the wording in verse 26 as “***which is against nature:***”.

IV. In Wrath, God’s judgment for this sin is build into it. (Rom 1:27) *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

The word “**receiving**” in line with the thought of reaping.
The words “**recompence**” & “**meet**” speaks clearly of man’s deserving of God’s judgment and wrath.

The fact that the “**receiving in themselves**” speaks of God’s affliction of their mortal bodies because that is where the sin was committed.

V. In Wrath, Vs 28 says that God gives man over to a “reprobate mind.”

(Rom 1:28) *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

This speaks of God’s wrath in its finality.

Man’s Reprobate Mind is a God Rejecting Mind!

With a reprobate mind, mankind who commits such things will never come to repentance, and thus condemns themselves **to a state of eternal separation from God.**

This **separation from God will be physical**, as his mortal body burns for eternity, without reprieve.

This **separation from God will be emotional**, because as a cognoscente human being, they will forever remember that they had ample opportunities to repent and foolishly chose not to; as Moses reminded the rich man in (Luke 16:25) “*Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*”

This **separation from God will be spiritual**, in that Jeremiah tells us in the book of (Lamentations 4:16) that “*he will no more regard them*”, which is to be forever out of the mind of God.

Is God Just to Judge Mankind & Condemn Him?

VI. **The Damnable Pride of Mankind**

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Finally, God’s wrath is upon man in death. God assures final judgment which is death.

These, aware of the righteousness of God, knowing such living is worthy of death, nevertheless continue in their sin and take pleasure as others do the same.

(Rom 2:1-3) Payday Someday! (Gen 7)