

Surrounded by Evidence

Rom. 1:18-32

Introduction

1. Place in development of the theme of Rom. 1:16-17
2. “For” - introduces the reason why the Gospel is being sent forth to effect justification of sinners
3. God’s wrath is revealed against sin
4. First against Gentiles (nations), which turned away from God
5. Second against Israel, which also sinned in spite of their advantages
6. What made God just in bringing wrath against sin? It was the universal evidence, so convincingly displayed in His creation.

I. The evidence revealed (1:18-21)

- A. The evidence supports the truth of God’s existence and revealed truth.
- B. The evidence informs us of God’s power and deity (invisible made visible).
- C. Man’s ungodliness and unrighteousness are rebellion against God.
- D. Human rejection of the evidence is inexcusable.
- E. Knew God: Irreverence - Ingratitude - Vain Thinking - Darkened Hearts/Minds
- F. Professed wisdom, but fools: Man apart from God
- G. Wrath shown

II. The evidence rejected (1:22-27)

- A. Professed wisdom, but fools: Man apart from God proves his folly.
- B. Changed God’s glory into something inglorious (idols)
- C. Incorruptible God vs. Corruptible Man
- D. God gave them up to pursue their own ends.
 1. Uncleaness - dishonor their bodies while worshiping creature
 2. Vile passions - homosexual relations (natural vs. unnatural; honorable vs. shameful)
- E. Wrath shown - penalty of their error due “in themselves”

III. The evidence abused (1:28-32)

- A. Evidence revealed and rejected; now abused as justification for sin
- B. Did not like to retain God in their knowledge (evidence and One it demonstrates)
- C. God gave them over to a debased mind (Note: 1) irreverent mind, 2) ungrateful mind, 3) futile/vain mind, 4) darkened mind, 5) debased mind - evidence abused
- D. Lives filled with sin, flourishing in debased minds
- E. Know God’s righteousness judgment on those doing and approving evil

Conclusion

1. Surrounded by evidence - made by God, revealing His powerful existence, rejected by dishonest people, abused by using it as reasons for sinning
2. Receiving divine wrath for sins
3. Let us not act foolishly like them, but accept the evidence divinely provided and reverence the Creator of heaven and earth.
4. Rom. 11:33-36