

The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:16 7 – The Theme of Romans

- the gospel is the power of God for salvation.
 - *Gospel (Good News)*
 - The Christian Gospel is about Jesus (*its content*)
 - It reveals God's gift of righteousness (*its significance*)
 - It brings salvation (*its outcome*) to all who believe (*its invitation*).
 - *Salvation*
 - *Past*, from the penalties of sin (**Luke 7:50**)
 - *Present*, from the power of sin in our daily lives (**Romans 5:10**)
 - *Future*, from the actual presence of sin (**1 Cor. 3:15; 5:5**)
 - Available “to everyone who believes”

The True Diagnosis

The Structure of Romans:

Part 1: Reconciliation and Righteousness – EXPLAINED

- **Romans 1:1-17** Paul's introductory remarks to the Christians in Rome; a brief summary of the book (16-17)
- **Romans 1:18-32** God's diagnosis of the human condition: the wrath of God
- **Romans 2** The guilt problem: why rites, rituals, and religion fail
- **Romans 3** The world is dead in sin - but now a righteousness from God is revealed
- **Romans 4** Abraham illustrates God's grace; he was justified by faith, not works

The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:18 2 – Righteousness Needed Because of Condemnation and Sin

1. Paul begins by giving us God's diagnosis of the human condition – **v. 18**
 - “the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men”
 - “the wrath of God” – not new by Paul's teaching.
 - We find it throughout the O.T.
 - Isaiah 48:9; 51:20; 60:10; **63:3-6**
 - All humanity suffers under “the wrath of God.”
 - **Ephesians 2:3**
 - So what is it?

The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

God's wrath: **His invisible resistance to man's sin.**



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Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

God's wrath: **His invisible resistance to man's sin.**

- What provokes God's wrath?

“The inevitable result of godlessness is wickedness—those selfish and hurtful acts that people commit against each other. Why do we act selfishly? Why do we hurt each other? Because we disregard God.” (Stedman)

- *or she can merely disregard Him.*
- How often do we “act as if God doesn't exist?” (*I Give Thanks!*)

The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

God's wrath: **His invisible resistance to man's sin.**

- What then follows as a natural consequence?
 - **v. 18** – the truth of God is suppressed.
- But notice **v. 19** – that which is known about God, He has made it evident to them.
 - God has revealed Himself!
 - Both in the **General Revelation** and **Special Revelation**
 - **General Revelation** is a revelation of Law. It is God's revelation or manifestation of Himself as God and as the creator and the righteous judge, and of man as sinner and standing under God's divine judgment.
 - **Special Revelation** is God's manifestation or revelation of Himself via miraculous events, divine speech, and visible manifestations.

The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

God's wrath: *His invisible resistance to man's sin.*

- v.21 – “they are without excuse”
 - The evidence is beyond question.
 - You must work hard to convince yourself that there is no God and only the very intelligent typically accomplish this feat.
 - “I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts; the rest are details.” (Einstein)



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The True Diagnosis

Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

God's wrath: *His invisible resistance to man's sin.*

- v.22-23 – Without the acknowledgment of God, we will lead to foolish and futile speculations. (Heb. 11:6)
 - Paul gives us three ways in which men suppress the truth about God.
 1. People fail to glorify God and give thanks to Him.
 - “winter break” “spring break” “in God we trust” PoA
 2. People claim to be wise
 - Man's wisdom in place of God's wisdom (Prov. 1:7)
 3. People exchange the glory of the immortal God for images made like mortal man.
 - (statues, icons, idols, sports stars, movie stars)

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The True Diagnosis

1. Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The cause: *willful ignorance.*

2. Romans 1:24 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The Consequence: *divine abandonment.*

- v.24; 26; 28 – “God gave them over” (*paradidomi*)
 - The word used in the original does not mean “to let go.”
 - Rather it means “to push down,” “to deliver up.”
 - It is the same word that is used for delivering a prisoner into prison.
 - You do not deliver a prisoner into prison by letting him go and letting him walk into prison of his own accord.

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The True Diagnosis

1. Romans 1:18 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The cause: *willful ignorance.*

2. Romans 1:24 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The Consequence: *divine abandonment.*

– v.24; 26; 28 – “God gave them over” (*paradidomi*)

- In this same way God delivers men unto sin.
 - He does so in His wrath.
 - The effect is that men become religiously foolish and morally corrupt.
- The text teaches, therefore, that God punishes sin with more sin. Sin, wrath, more sin, more wrath, etc...

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The True Diagnosis

2. Romans 1:24 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The Consequence: *divine abandonment.*

– To what does God give them over?

- v.24 – “the lusts of their hearts”
 - What is the deepest desire of the heart?
 - Worship. (to feel an adoring reverence or regard for something or someone)
 - Exodus 20:5
 - Why then does Paul equate the deepest desires of the heart to sexual perversion? (v.24-27)
 - Because sex is linked with worship.
 - “Our sexual longings are intimately connected with our longing for genuine worship, for an intimate connection with God.” (RCS)

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The True Diagnosis

2. Romans 1:24 2 – Condemnation and Sin

– The Consequence: *divine abandonment.*

– v.28-32 – describes marks of a society on the verge of complete collapse.

- Marks of a world on the verge of complete collapse.
 - Godlessness eventually reduces all human beings to things. Objects not individuals.
- Why would God allow individuals to come to such a tragic sense of life?
- In the hope that the consequences of those choices may ultimately drive them to Him.

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The True Diagnosis

1. **Romans 1:18 2** – Condemnation and Sin
 - The cause: *willful ignorance*.
 2. **Romans 1:24 2** – Condemnation and Sin
 - The Consequence: *divine abandonment*.
- Paul is giving us the true diagnosis of the human condition apart from Jesus.
 - But Praise God, He has not left it there!

The True Diagnosis

Conclusion: the wrath of God is being poured out.

- **Romans 2:5** – is being stored
- **Revelations 6:16,17; 16** – it's going to get much much worse!
- **1 Thess. 5:9**
- **1 Thess. 1:10**
- **Romans 5:9** – AMAZINGLY WONDERFUL

