

Romans 1:18-28

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God **{God's wrath is his action in punishing evil, a holy disapproval of all that is seen as wicked in the eyes of his holiness. In this first chapter, both righteousness and wrath are revealed. Righteousness is revealed in the gospel, but wrath is revealed as an activity God takes to uphold his glory.}** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **{For the wickedness of humanity deliberately smothers the truth and keeps people from acknowledging the truth about God.}**

<sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **{Acts 14: <sup>17</sup>Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.}** <sup>20</sup>For 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, **{Psalm 19: <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup>Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. <sup>3</sup>They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. <sup>4</sup>Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. <sup>5</sup>It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. <sup>6</sup>It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.}**

<sup>21</sup>For 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. **{Gen.8: <sup>21</sup>The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.}** <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **{can also be translated "insane"} {1Cor. 1: <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.}** <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. **{Deut. 4: <sup>15</sup>You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, <sup>16</sup>so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, <sup>17</sup>or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air}**

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over **{Eph. 4: <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed}** in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **{1Pet 4: <sup>3</sup>For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans**

**choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry}** <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. **{2Thess: 2: <sup>11</sup> For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup> and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness}** <sup>27</sup> In 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. **{Lev 18: <sup>21</sup> “Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. <sup>22</sup> “Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable. <sup>23</sup> “Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion} {some have suggested sexually transmitted diseases, depression, anxiety and suicide here}**

<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, 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. <sup>29</sup> They 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, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. <sup>32</sup> 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. **{see also 2Tim 3: But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—<sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. <sup>6</sup> They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, <sup>7</sup> always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth}**