

Introduction

I. All Humanity Found Guilty 1:18-32

- There are three parts to this section
- A. The first part, Vss 18-20 announces the revelation of God's wrath and why it is justified. Three things happen here.
 1. People are suppressing the truth and committing ungodly acts. They are sinning.
 2. Because God has given people a knowledge of himself 19-20a. Because they are sinning God reveals himself. And because of sin people continue to suppress the truth. Because they suppress the truth when they continue to sin...#3.
 3. Therefore when they sin they are without excuse.
 - a) It is because people continue to hang on to their sin, that they render the truth inoperative for themselves.
 - b) But because God reveals himself to them and they choose to reject truth, they have no excuse.
 - B. The next section gives more detail as to how people suppress the truth. vs 21-31
 1. 21-24a People **exchange the truth** of God for idols...**He hands them over/abandons them** This 'handed over' language sounds OT in every time Israel was defeated by their enemy.
 - a) They worshipped idols! Things they created.
 2. 24b-26 People **exchange truth** for a lie...**He hands them over/abandons them**
 - a) They worshiped things created by God!
 3. 26b-31 They thought it foolish to worship God. **Therefore, people exchanged** natural sexual practices for unnatural...**He hands them over/abandons them**.
 - a) To hand over/abandon, Grk. *apodidomi* - (apo meaning from)-which means to give back for the fruit of what was done.
 4. This 'handing over' of man to his sin, by God is a revelation of the wrath of God being handed out. It reveals the sentence already being handed out.
 - C. Third section. "*They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.*" (Romans 1:32, NLT)
 1. This is the concluding indictment and the transition to chapter 2.
 2. Traditionally people say this is against the Gentiles but it is against people, all of them. The object of God's wrath is 'people' vs 18 not Gentiles.
 3. So this section speaks to all who have knowledge of God's truth but who suppress it or turn away from it. This is repeated by every generation! By every person!
 4. We should also note that the 'objects' of God's wrath are people not Gentiles. Also it is noteworthy to connect Paul's description of evil to look like the gold calf incident.

II. All Humanity and the Moral People Found Guilty 2:1-3:8

- A. Paul in Chapter 2 starts using a literary tool here called a 'Diatribe.' You are actually having a conversation with a non-existent person as though they were there.
 1. Often questions are raised to open up dialogue type statements.

2. Paul starts by addressing someone who stands in judgment over the one just addressed in chapter 118-32.
 3. This person is in just as much trouble as the person in chapter 1.
 4. Though the Jews are not mentioned until 2:17 is fairly clear who Paul is talking about but in particular anyone who is moral would fit here... "I am a good person."
- B. His main indictment here is against the Jew
1. It is given in two sections. 2:1-16 and 2:17-29. Here Paul portrays the sinful Jew as no better than the Gentile. It is almost worse because they have the law...the revelation of God.
 2. Paul stresses that their sin will be treated no differently than that of the Gentiles. Again, his point is that all of humanity is under the influence of sins power. "*He will judge everyone according to what they have done.*" (Romans 2:6, NLT)
 3. Only one thing saves, repentance and a changed heart.
 - a) "*Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*" (Romans 2:4, NLT)
 - b) "*No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.*" (Romans 2:29, NLT)
 4. Paul stresses that God does not show favoritism. 2:11

III. All Humanity and the Jews Found Guilty 2:17-29 and 3:1-8

- A. The limitations of covenant - Paul is directly speaking to Jews.
 1. The point of this section is that in spite of having the law and circumcision sin still has ruling power of you.
 2. Three special gifts:
 - a) You belong to the chosen people
 - b) You rely on the law
 - c) You have a special relationship with God.
- B. It is all about the heart! "*No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.*" (Romans 2:29, NLT) Gods verdict is based on works but they are motivated from a heart of faith. Faith produces good works.
- C. Paul's conviction is that Christ came first and all men are sinners who stand in need of him.