

GUILTY AS CHARGED

Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

November 12, 2017

Romans 1:18-3:18

1. The Gospel is good news because it is addressed to those who are perishing, condemned, and subject to the wrath of God.
2. These realities are revealed in John 3.
 - a. John 3:16
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not **perish**, but have eternal life.
 - b. John 3:17-18
"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge (condemn) the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged (condemned); **he who does not believe has been judged (condemned) already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**"
 - c. John 3:36
"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**"
3. The Apostle Paul began where all true gospel preaching must begin; he began with man's predicament.
4. He summed up that predicament in Romans 3:9-18.
NOTE: Most people will admit they commit sin, but they will not admit that they are sinners to the core of their being without any redeeming qualities whatsoever.
5. There is nothing about a non-Christians that appeals to or recommends him to God.
Isa 64:6
For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
6. The amazing thing about the redemptive love of God is that it is bestowed upon those He hates. Ps 5:4-7
For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; **You hate all who do iniquity.** 6 You destroy those who speak falsehood; **the Lord abhors (to loathe, to regard as an abomination) the man of bloodshed and deceit.** 7 But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, at Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.
NOTE: The notion that God hates the sin but loves the sinner is a distortion of what the Bible teaches.
7. So why is the wrath of God revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men?

I. Because people actively suppress the truth. 1:18-32

- A. God created mankind with the innate ability to recognize and discern certain realities about Himself based on the Creation. 19-20
- B. Mankind is guilty before God because they actively resist, suppress, deny, and defy the obvious.
- C. Subsequently they substitute error for truth. 21-23
- D. In response God gave mankind over:
 - 1. To the lusts of their hearts. 24-25
 - 2. To degrading passions. 26-27
 - 3. To a depraved mind. 28-32

II. Because people continuously pass judgment on other. 2:1-11

- A. God created us in His image and consequently we are moral beings.
- B. This reality is demonstrated by that fact that we are constantly passing judgment on other people's actions, attitudes, lifestyles, and points-of-view. 1-3
- C. Not only do we judge others, but we also misjudge God. 4-11
 - 1. We fail to properly understand and respond to the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience designed to bring us to repentance.
 - 2. Rather we store up wrath for ourselves because of our stubbornness and unrepentant hearts.
- D. Note the two paths open to us: eternal life or wrath and indignation.

III. Because every culture has rules to govern itself. 2:12-16

- A. As individuals or societies we develop personal value systems and rules to live by.
- B. However, no individual is capable of perfectly fulfilling or living up to his own or his society's values and rules.
- C. Some misinterpret this passage to exonerate cultures and individuals who have not had the opportunity to hear the gospel, when in reality this passage places all people under the judgment of God.
- D. If we can't obey our own rules how can we hope to obey and fulfill the Law of God?

IV. Because religion, regardless of its origin, cannot accomplish what God requires. 2:17-3:8

- A. No religion, apart from God's enablement, has the power to enable its adherents to perfectly fulfill or to live up to what it claims to believe and practice.
- B. Only through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can any person gain a right-standing before God.
- C. Which brings us back to Paul's conclusion, "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one.'"

APPLICATION

1. The Bible clearly teaches that towards the end of the Church Age both the church and its message will deviate from God's original intent.
2. Rather than being what God wants the church to be it will become what people want it to be.
3. The church's message will be designed to please men rather than God.
4. Paul's admonition to Timothy made this sad reality clear. 2 Tim 4:1-5
I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.** 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
5. What does it mean to preach the word?
6. The Greek word translated preach means to be a herald, to proclaim, to publish, to make known that which has been done or written by one in authority.
7. No God-called preacher has the right to tone down or adjust the Word of God to make it more acceptable to people.
8. Paul wrote about those who misuse and abuse the Word of God.
 - a. 2 Cor 2:17
For we are not like **many**, peddling (corrupting, misrepresenting, saying whatever it takes to make the sale) the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.
 - b. 2 Cor 4:1-3
Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating (handling deceitfully) the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
9. Woe to any man who claims to be God's spokesperson, and yet fails to preach and teach the whole, unedited counsel of God.