



Decade of Availability How Should We Then Live?

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17

The unjust...

1. ...Suppress the Truth vv. 18-20 What is truth?

a. **In the right:** God is righteous—always in ‘in the right.’ The rightness of human action must be determined **not** by changing moral standards but by the unchanging revelation of God.

b. **The wrath of God:** The ‘wrath of God’ is part of the righteousness of God. God’s wrath is a holy response to the unholy, a just reaction to the unjust—He will not let the ungodly appeal to ignorance as a justification for their actions. (v. 19)

c. **What is known:** v. 20 God has revealed His power and divinity through the creation. Paul makes no mention of Satan or any other evil agent. Man is ‘responsible’ for rejecting God.

2. ...Reject God vv. 21-22 Choose wisely!

a. **Responding to God:** Humanity if NOT indicted because of a failure to find God, but because of a failure to RESPOND to God’s initiative.

b. **Biblical foolishness:** ... is a person who willfully makes moral decisions contrary to God’s instructions. This was a heart decision (mental choice)—it was foolish wisdom.

3. ...Worship Creation vv. 23-28 Man is his own god!

a. **Image of God:** We were made in the image of God (*Gen 1:27-28*). Adam and Eve’s rebellious response to the revelation of God caused that image to be tainted.

The result: Man has reversed the divine order by making God in his own image after his own likeness and then, making God in the image of other created things. What God made plain, mankind exchanged for a lie.

b. **Gave them up:** vv. 24; 26; 28 As with Pharaoh who was given many opportunities (See Exodus 8) and then released to the consequences of his disobedience—so God gave up mankind in general to their unbelief and rebellion.

4. ...Live For Pleasure vv. 28-32 The pleasure driven life!

a. **As it was...so it is:** These vices are just as common today as they were in the apostle’s day and as they have been in history.

b. **It’s your choice:** What one thinks about God and how one then responds to this knowledge determine the cycle of behavior—a downward spiral.

c. **When darkness is light:** v. 32; *John 3:19* The people not only do what is wrong—they approve of it. “This is the condemnation...men loved darkness rather than light—because their deeds were evil.”

There is hope: *1 Cor 6:9-11* “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators nor idolaters...shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed...sanctified...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus...and by the Spirit of our God.”

Romans 1:18-32 (KJV)

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **26** For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **27** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; **29** Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, **30** Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: **32** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.