

**The Wrath of God Revealed Against Sinners**  
**(Romans 1:18-25)**

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**Introduction: An Awful Exchange at an Enormous Price.**

- A. What would you give in exchange for your soul? (**Mat. 16:26**).
  
- B. Many people in life, by refusing to worship and obey God, turn to something or someone else other than God to try to fill the void or emptiness without Him.
  
- C. The horrible price they pay is their fellowship with God and the salvation of their souls: **The wrath of God abides on them!**

**I. Why the Gospel of Christ Is Necessary.**

- A. All people, both Jew and Gentile, are sinners who are in desperate need of the saving power of the gospel of Christ.
  - 1. Not only is the gospel equally available to both Jew and Gentile (**Rom. 1:16**), but both Jew and Gentile are in equal need of it (**Rom. 1:18-3:23**).
  
- B. Until people receive the remedy for sin, the wrath of God will abide on them both now and at the Judgment (**Rom. 1:18; cf. John 3:36b; 1 Thes. 1:10**).

**II. What Is the Wrath of God?**

- A. It is *not* like the anger of man, which is most of the time unrighteous (**Jas. 1:20**).
  - 1. God's wrath is thankfully not like man's wrath! (e.g., irrational, impulsive, uncontrolled, hostile, malicious, vindictive, spiteful, etc.)
  
- B. God's *wrath* (i.e. anger or indignation exhibited by punishing) is expressed by His righteous judgments against sin (**Ps. 7:11-12; cf. Prov. 16:5; 6:16-19**).
  
- C. God cannot be neutral concerning sin, for He stands for righteousness, justice, and holiness (**Ps. 89:14; Isa. 5:16**).
  - 1. Those who make God out to be all tolerant, who forgives without repentance do not know God!

**III. Why Exactly Is the Wrath of God Revealed?**

- A. God is against people who are ungodly and unrighteous (**Rom. 1:18**).
  
- B. Such people "*suppress the truth of God in unrighteousness,*" living **as if** God doesn't exist at all! (**Rom. 1:18**).
  - 1. **The truth they suppress is:** There is a God who created all things to whom we are held accountable.
  - 2. When people refuse to recognize their accountability before God there is no fear of God (cf. **Rom. 3:18**) which leads to sin.

C. People have *no excuse* for their rebellion, for the existence of God has been made *evident* by what is discovered in the Creation (**Rom 1:19-20**).

1. God, who is invisible, makes Himself evident and knowable by His Creation! (**Ps. 19:1**; cf. **Job 37-42:6**; **Acts 14:15-17**; **17:25**; **Ps. 139:14**; **33:9**; **Rev. 4:11**).

#### IV. The Foolish Trade of Sinners.

A. They “knew” God, yet did not honor Him or give Him thanks (**Rom. 1:21**).

1. When a person fails to honor or glorify God and becomes unthankful for what the Lord has provided him, **sin and idolatry will inevitably follow**.

B. Vain reasoning about God leads to a dark and foolish heart (**Rom. 1:21**).

1. Their hearts were darkened; when the truth of God (the source of “light”) is denied, the result is a dark heart leading to sin (cf. **John 3:19-21**).

C. They believe they are wise, but are in reality fools! (**Rom. 1:22**).

1. When you deny the existence of God, you start to make claims of your own wisdom and thus become a fool (**Ps. 14:1**; cf. **1 Cor. 1:18-31**).
2. When you follow your own self-made wisdom, you will live foolishly making foolish decisions (**Eph. 5:17**; **Prov. 14:12**).

D. The foolish exchange (**Rom. 1:23, 25**).

1. They exchanged the glory or worship due *God* and gave it to their idols! (**Rom. 1:23**).
2. Idolatry served not as an aid, but as an addition to true worship in which the idols replaced God (e.g., **Exodus 32:4-5**).
3. The foolish and awful trade they made was an exchange of the truth of God for a lie! (**Rom. 1:25**; e.g., **Gen. 3**; **Mat. 6:24**).
4. Many people today make this foolish trade, giving something or someone an “idol status” to the neglect of God.

#### V. God Gives the Sinner Up.

A. Even before “the day of wrath” or Judgment day (**Rom. 2:5-6**), sinners experience a form of God’s wrath when He “*gives them up*” to the practice of sin (**Rom. 1:24**).

B. When sinners abandon God for their sins, God abandons them (“gives them up”) to the consequences of their sins (**Rom. 1:24**).

1. This is God’s just way of allow the process of moral and spiritual degeneration to take place which results in their suffering the consequences of sin (**Gal. 6:7-8**).

**Conclusion: Instead of Playing the Fool and Face God’s Wrath, Let Us Acknowledge God as Our Creator and Believe in and Obey His Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 3:24; 5:8-9).**