

e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc. By Dr. David DeWitt
The Natural Revelation of God through Creation

The reason for the wrath of God—*They suppress the truth* (read Romans 1:18-23)

- From Romans 1:18–3:20, Paul showed why *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven*. It's because:
 1. They rejected the revelation of God in creation—1:18-32.
 2. They rejected the revelation of God through their conscience—chapter 2.
 3. There is none righteousness—3:1-20.
- The reason given for the wrath of God is that people suppress *the truth in unrighteousness*. So the world's basic motive for ignoring God's creation is to live in unrighteousness.
- From nature, we can learn the attributes of God, the power of God, and the nature of God (verse 20). [See "Theism" in the Relational Concepts' study book "Why Christianity."]
- The method used to reject the truth revealed in creation is futile speculations. So they are not following logic, reason, or the scientific method of repeatable conclusions based on evidence. But as, for example, with evolution, global warming, and life on other planets, they ignore the evidence and go with *futile speculations* (verse 21).
- The fools (of, say, the film industry or the media) profess themselves to be wise (verse 22).
- What the fools, who suppress the truth, do is worship the creation instead of the Creator—as with evolution, humanism, and socialism (verse 23).

The results of the wrath of God—*God gave them over ...* (read Romans 1:24-32)

- Three times Paul said *God gave them over* (verses 24, 26, and 28). The idea seems to be that God allows them to continue on their sinful course to the natural destruction of those thoughts and actions. After a certain depth of sin, God is no longer involved in their lives. He no longer convicts them of *sin and righteousness and judgment* (John 16:8).
- The basic sin here is to worship and serve the creation rather than the Creator of that creation (verse 25). Paul illustrated that with animal-image idolatry, but the principle would apply equally well to the worship or adoration of "Mother Earth," the evolution of life, "life finds a way" (from "Jurassic Park"), human self-actualization, being true to yourself, etc.
- Next (verses 26-28), Paul described both gay and lesbian homosexuality of any kind as *indecent acts of a depraved mind, ... things which are not proper*.
- Finally (verses 29-32), Paul concluded this section with a list of sins commonly committed by the world. But the main point is that they not only do these things *but also give hearty approval to those who practice them*. The real problem is not that these people are sinning, ashamed of their sin, and repenting. This is not the regretful sins of Romans 7. This is a tolerant approval of those who are sinning. It is dealing with sinful activity by calling it "right." Today, people claim the world is getting better because they are changing the definition of "better."

For more information see "**Romans**" in Commentaries on Relational Concepts web page:
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