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☐	SEPTEMBER 13	MARK 13-14	DANIEL 10-12



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The Problem of Sin

LUKE 18:9-14

Reality of Divine Wrath

Sin incurs the **WRATH** of God.

Sin breaks our relationship with God.

We cannot fully appreciate the value of GRACE when we don't understand the **WRATH** of God.

The Wrath of God

TWO COMMON VIEWPOINTS

The “**Agreed**” viewpoint

- Sees God as hostile
- Creates a fear that makes it impossible to draw near to a Father

The “**Surprised**” viewpoint

- Imagines a God who is exclusively loving and never angry because of “grace”
- Creates a perilous deception that ignores God’s inherent holiness

It is impossible to fully appreciate *grace*
if you don't understand the *severity* of His wrath.

Sermon Outline (Romans 1:18-3:20)

1. Sin suppresses the truth of God *Romans 1:18-23*

2. Sin causes God to "give us over"
- known as "divine withdrawal" *Romans 1:24-32*

3. Sin brings the judgement of God *Romans 2:1-16*

4. Sin causes some to be deceived *Romans 2:17-3:8*

5. The final verdict: All under sin *Romans 3:9-20*

1. Sin suppresses the truth of God

ROMANS 1:18-23

Romans 1:18-20

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse

... is revealed

The tense implies that it has begun to show or made known.

Passive & Active rebellion

What does this look like?

Romans 1:18-20

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... is evident within them ... (v19)

This refers to their conscience – *THE INNER WITNESS*

- 1) Our sense of right and wrong points to a moral Law Giver.
- 2) He is the heart's witness (*Romans 2:15*).

Romans 1:18-20

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²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are **without excuse**

... evident to them ... (v19)

This refers to creation, eternal power and divine nature

– *THE EXTERNAL WITNESS*

- 1) Creation reveals God's eternal power and divine nature.
- 2) The order, beauty and complexity of the universe point to a Creator.

There is no excuse!

Romans 1:21-23

²¹ For even though they **knew God**, they **did not honour Him as God** or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,
²³ and exchanged the glory of the **incorruptible God** for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

... did not honour Him as God

This is how they suppressed the truth – by failing to honour God and by exchanging His glory for an image.

They chose to suppress the truth of God.

What does this mean?

Romans 1:21

... they did not honour Him as God or give thanks...

A failure to have a posture of honour or thanksgiving

Romans 1:23

... exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image...

A false object of worship

2. Sin causes God to “give us over” –
known as ‘divine withdrawal’

ROMANS 1:24-32

Romans 1:24-32

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonoured among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. ²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit; malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practise such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practise them.

ROMANS 1	WRATH OF GOD	ROOT CAUSE	DEGRADATION OF MAN
v24-25	God gave them up to impurity	Failure to give thanks False objects of worship	Impurity: Dishonouring their bodies, adultery, fornication
v26-27	God gave them over to degrading passions	Exchanged God's truth for falsehood	Immorality: Unnatural sexual relations
v28-32	God gave them up to a depraved mind	Rejected the knowledge of God	Impropriety: Unrighteousness behaviors

The wrath of God *cannot be interpreted*
in the same vein as human anger.

It *must be interpreted* through His nature
as a **holy** and loving Father.

Romans 1:29-31

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil;

full of envy, murder, strife, deceit; malice; they are gossips,

³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,

inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

Internal Attitudes

- Wickedness
- Greed
- Envy
- Malice
- Arrogance
- Boastfulness

Social Disruptors

- Gossip
- Slander
- Insolence (*rude/disrespect*)
- Disobedience to parents
- Untrustworthy
- Unfeeling (*no consideration*)

The *climax* of this rebellion is the
Celebration of Evil (1:32),

where individuals not only practise unrighteousness
but actively approve of, and even take pride in,
those who do the same.

3. Sin brings the judgement of God.

ROMANS 2:1-16

1. Sin suppresses the truth of God
2. Sin causes God to “give us over” – known as ‘divine withdrawal’

Romans 2:1-16

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgement for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practise the same things. ² And we know that the judgement of God rightly falls upon those who practise such things. ³ But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgement on those who practise such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgement of God? ⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God, ⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honour and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. ¹² For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; ¹³ for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ¹⁶ on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Romans 2:1-16

³ But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practise such things and do the same yourself, **that you will escape the judgement of God?**

INESCAPABLE

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of **the righteous judgement of God,**

IMPECCABLE

⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON **ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:**

INDIVIDUALISED

¹¹ **For there is no partiality with God.**

IMPARTIAL

¹⁶ on the day when, according to my gospel, **God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.**

INSIDE-OUT

Five Qualities of God's Judgement

INESCAPABLE

IMPARTIAL

IMPECCABLE

INSIDE-OUT

INDIVIDUALISED

4. Sin causes some to be deceived

ROMANS 2:17-3:8

1. Sin suppresses the truth of God
2. Sin causes God to “give us over” – known as ‘divine withdrawal’
3. Sin brings the judgement of God

Romans 2:17-20

¹⁷ But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law
and boast in God,

¹⁸ and know His will and approve the things that are essential,
being instructed out of the Law,

¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind,
a light to those who are in darkness,

²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature,
having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth

Romans 2:21-24

²¹ you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

²² You who say that one should not commit adultery,
do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

²³ You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law,
do you dishonour God?

²⁴ For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES
BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

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The Dangers of Religious Hypocrisy

PAUL EXPOSES FIVE WAYS THE RELIGIOUS LIFE
CAN CONTRADICT RELIGIOUS TEACHING:

- 1. Teaching others** *while remaining unteachable*
- 2. Preaching against stealing** *while practising theft*
- 3. Condemning adultery** *while committing adultery*
- 4. Rejecting idols** *while “robbing temples”*
- 5. Boasting in the Law** *while dishonouring God by breaking it*

"One thing worse than the Gentile sinning
is the Jew sinning—they have the Law.

One thing worse than the Jew sinning
is the Christian sinning—we have the Spirit."

David Pawson

Romans 2:25-29

²⁵ For indeed **circumcision** is of value if you practise the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your **circumcision** has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as **circumcision**? ²⁷ And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and **circumcision** are a transgressor of the Law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is **circumcision** that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision** is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Romans 2:25-29

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	CIRCUMCISION	LAW	OUTCOME
2:25	circumcised	practised	circumcision is of value
2:25	circumcised	not practised	uncircumcision
2:26	uncircumcised	keeps the law	regarded as circumcision
2:27			judge the Jews who broke the law
2:28-29	circumcised outwardly = not Jews outwardly circumcised inwardly = Jews inwardly		

The Jews' **pride** often rest in possessing
the *actual words of God (Law)*
and the *badge of circumcision*.

Rebutting Some Wrong Conclusions

ROMANS 3:1-8

1. What then is the advantage of being a Jew or being circumcised?
2. Does human unbelief nullify God's faithfulness?
3. If my sin reveals God's righteousness, why should I be judged?

Rebutting Some Wrong Conclusions

1. What then is the advantage of being a Jew or being circumcised?

ROMANS 3:1-2

¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? ² **Great in every respect.** First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Rebutting Some Wrong Conclusions

2. Does human unbelief nullify God's faithfulness?

ROMANS 3:3-4

³What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?

⁴May it never be! Rather, **let God be found true**, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."

Rebutting Some Wrong Conclusions

3. If my sin reveals God's righteousness, why should I be judged?

ROMANS 3:5

But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)

The final verdict: All under sin

ROMANS 3:9-20

1. Sin suppresses the truth of God
2. Sin causes God to “give us over” – known as ‘divine withdrawal’
3. Sin brings the judgement of God
4. Sin causes some to be deceived

Romans 3:9-18

⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

¹⁰ as it is written,

“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

Romans 3:9-18

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¹³ “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,
WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,”

“THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

¹⁴ “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

¹⁵ “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

¹⁸ “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

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¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR **PATHS**,

¹⁷ AND THE **PATH** OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

¹⁸ “THERE IS **NO FEAR OF GOD** BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

Scriptural Diagnosis of Human Corruption

WORDS

- Throat an open grave
- Tongue a tool of deceit
- Lips that carry venom
- Mouth full of bitterness

ACTIONS

- Feet swift to shed blood

SPIRIT

- Root cause: no fear of God

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

The *purpose of the Law* is to provide
the **knowledge of sin**.

It was never intended to be
the **solution**.

The question then is: How should we respond?

Three responses

1. Be *honest* with the truth
2. Be *humble* with the truth
3. Be *hungry* for the truth

Three responses

1. BE *HONEST* WITH THE TRUTH

- Stop suppressing God's truth (1:18) or exchanging it for a lie (1:25).
- Honesty is the first step towards the Light.

Three responses

2. BE *HUMBLE* WITH THE TRUTH

- Acknowledge that there is “no excuse” (1:20) and “no escape” (2:3).
- Let go of the belief that we can make ourselves right before God.

Three responses

3. BE *HUNGRY* FOR THE TRUTH

- Since God has made Himself known (1:19), receive and respond to His revelation.
- Seek the righteousness God has provided through faith, not through our own efforts (1:17).