

GOD REVEALS, MAN REJECTS, AND GOD JUDGES

WE BELIEVE IN HUMAN DEVOLUTION

ROMANS 1:18-32

Randy Broberg

Maranatha Mens Ministry

October 23, 2018

So-called Ascent of Man

ATHEISM: Belief
There Is No God

MONOTHEISM: Belief In One God

POLYTHEISM: Belief In Many Gods. Gods For Cities,
Gods For Travelling, Gods For Harvest Etc.

PANTHEISM: Belief That There Ae Gods
Everywhere. Seriously, My Backyard Might Have A
God For It. Gods In Trees, In Rivers, Etc.

ANIMISM & SPIRITISM: Belief In Ghosts,
Magic, Spells, Hexes, Witches, Luck , Omens

BACKGROUND ON PAGANISM

The Most Ancient Paganism, 1,000 or more BC

- “There is a road that slopes downhill, all gloomy with funereal yew. It leads to the underworld, through regions mute and silent.
- There the sluggish [River] Styx breathes forth its mists, and by that path descend the ghosts of those newly dead, the shades of mortals duly laid to rest in their tombs.
- Far and wide the desolate spot is wrapped in gloomy chill. The ghosts, just lately arrived, do not know where the road lies which leads to the Stygian city, nor whether to go to find the grim palace of dusky Dis. His populous city has a thousand approaches, and gates on every side, all standing open.
- As the sea absorbs rivers from all over the earth, so that place receives every soul: it is never too small, however great the throng. New crowds arriving make no difference.
- Lifeless shadows without blood or bones wander about, some jostling in the market-place, some round the palace of the underworld's king, while others busy themselves with the trades which they practiced in the old days, when they were alive.
- Others are subjected to punishment, each according to his crime.”
- Plutarch, Moralia (Divine Vengeance)

Basic Paganism at time of New Testament

- **Anthropomorphism.** Gods fight among themselves, commit rape, murder, kidnapping, etc.
- ***Pax deorum*:** Religion is a contract requiring correct ritual performance which earns favor with gods.
 - Sacrifice, respect and bargaining.
 - No requirement to change life or conduct it with morality.
 - No sacred writings. Discerned will of gods by superstition.
- **Mother Earth:** “Isis”, “Magna Mater” or “Great Mother” or “Mother of God” was the mother of all living things, an earth mother, goddess of fertility and nature.
- **Father Time:** Saturn or Kronos. Saturnalia to mark new year with worship of Janus, the new year’s god.

Seneca: “Post Ancientism”

“They dedicate images of the sacred and inviolable immortals in most worthless and motionless matter. They give them the appearance of man, beasts, and fishes, and some make them of mixed sex, and heterogeneous bodies. They call them deities, when they are such that if they should get breath and should suddenly meet them, they would be held to be monsters.”

Against Superstition, circa 60 AD

Annihilationists, Agnostics, and Atheists.

- **Seneca**, “Reflect that there are no ills to be suffered after death, that the reports that make the Lower World terrible to us are mere tales, that no darkness is in store for the dead, no prison, no blazing streams of fire, no river of Lethe, that no judgment-seats are there, nor culprits,.... All these things are the fancies of the poets, who have harrowed us with groundless terrors. Death is a release from all our suffering, a boundary beyond which our ills cannot pass - it restores us to that peaceful state in which we lay before we were born.”

“Wayfarer, do not pass by my epitaph, but stand and listen, and then, when you have learned the truth, proceed. There is no boat in Hades, no ferryman Charon, no Aeacus keeper of the keys, nor any dog called Cerberus. All of us who have died and gone below are bones and ashes: there is nothing else. What I have told you is true. Now withdraw, wayfarer, so that you will not think that, even though dead, I talk too much.”

Epitaph from a Tomb

1 Corinthians 10:19-20:

Paganism is Demonic

¹⁹ Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Any of these statements sound familiar?

NO AFTERLIFE

- There is no heaven and there certainly is no hell.
- My God would never send anyone to hell.
- You asked if I'm saved. Saved from what?

NO MORAL CODE

- Don't you judge me!
- You have no right to claim that you are right and I'm wrong.
- Just because it's wrong for you doesn't mean it is wrong for me.

BACKGROUND ON REVELATION

Psalm 19:5

General Revelation

- The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

General and Special Revelation

General Revelation

- General Information about God and Sin delivered directly to all humanity.
- If you reject it, you will experience God's wrath.
- We believe if you accept it, you will be able to receive Special Revelation.

Special Revelation

- Specific information about God, sin *and salvation* delivered first to Israel and later through the Bible.
- If you reject it, you will experience God's wrath.
- You accept it, when you believe in and accept Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:18-32 OUTLINE

- **18 -20** *GOD REVEALS*
- **21-23** *MAN REJECTS GOD.*
- **24-32** *GOD JUDGES*
 - **24-25** *GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO THEIR LUSTS.*
 - **26 -27** *GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO THEIR DEGRADING DESIRES.*
 - **28 -31** *GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO THEIR DEPRAVED MINDS RESULTING IN DEPRAVITY.*
 - **32** *SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH.*

ROMANS 1:18-32

GOD REVEALS

His wrath and nature so that there are no excuses

Romans 1:18-20

God Reveals Himself to Mankind

- **18** 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.

Romans 1:18:WRATH REVEALED

WRATH

- God's Anger And Displeasure Over Sin
- God's Eternal Damnation
- Divine Judgment
- Eternal Punishment

REVEALED

- Adam's Curse
- Noah's Flood
- Nimrod's Tower of Babel
- Sodom & Gomorrah
- Plagues on Egypt
- Red Sea destroys pharaoh's army
- Destruction of Canaanites

Romans 1:18 WRATH AGAINST Ungodliness and Unrighteousness of Men

UNGODLINESS

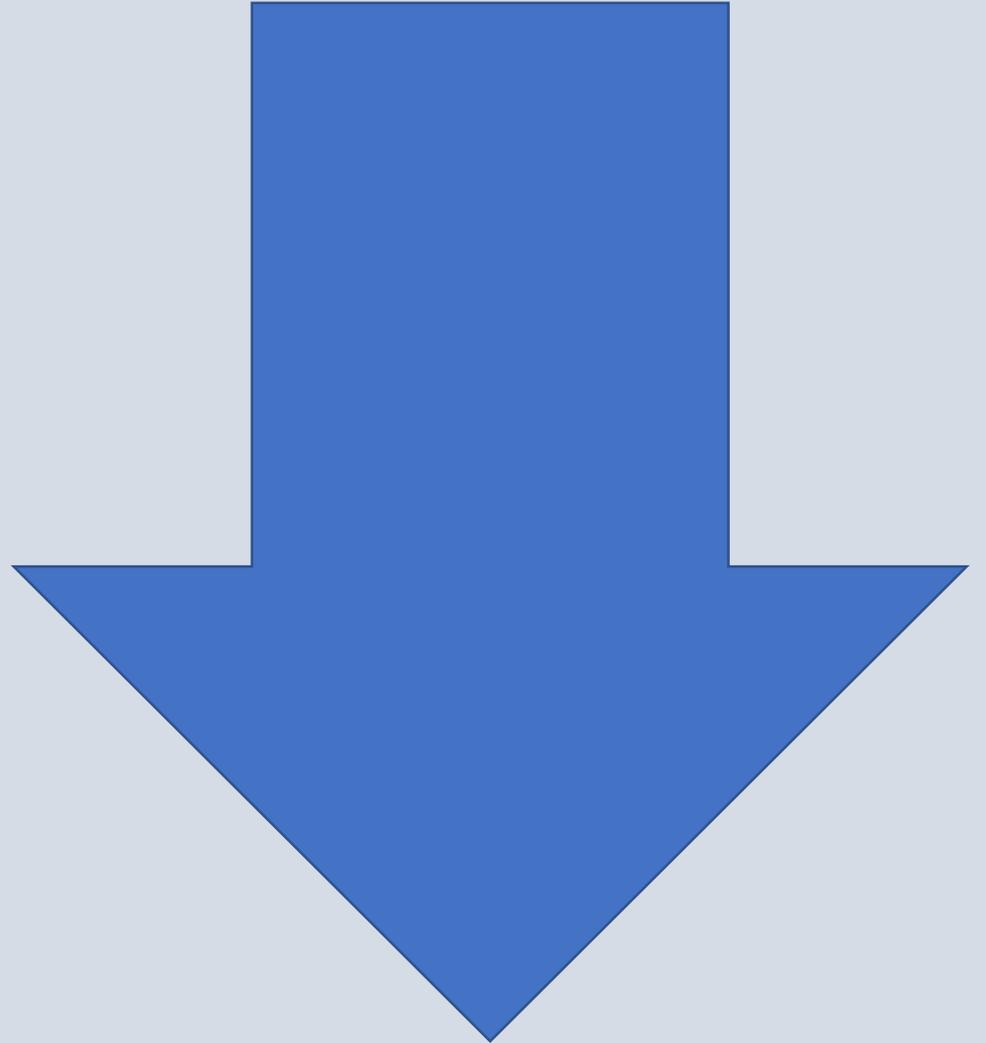
- Rejecting God, not rejecting Religion.
- May be devout, religious heathen.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

- Rejecting God's rules
- Rejecting God's morality.
- Rejecting God's Justice.
- No right or wrong.

Romans 1:19-20: Mankind Is Without Excuse

- *Rom. 1:19* 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.**



Mankind Rejects God

To pursue idolatry and sexual depravity

Romans 1:21-23

Man Rejects God and His Revelation

- **21** For even though **they knew God**, *they did not honor Him as God or give thanks*, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was 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.*

Romans 1:20: *God's invisible attributes, eternal power and divine nature--Rejected*

SINS AGAINST GOD	ASPECTS OF GOD'S NATURE BEING REJECTED
Suppress God's Truth Exchange truth for a lie contrivers of all sorts of evil,	God's Veracity and Trustworthiness God's kindness
Failure to glorify God Failure to thank God haters of God	God's mercy, love grace and kindness
Exchange God for Idols Worship creature rather than the Creator	God's Glory , Majesty and Omnipotence

Immediate Consequences of Mankind's Rejection

SINS AGAINST GOD	
Suppress God's Truth Exchange truth for a lie contrivers of all sorts of evil,	Futile in their speculations Bodies dishonored Foolish hearts darkened.
Failure to glorify God Failure to thank God haters of God	Indecent acts LGBT
Exchange God for Idols Worship creature rather than the Creator	Became fools

God Judges Mankind

By letting them fall into their own depraved passions

Proverbs 1:28-33: God gives Israel Over to Own Devices

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;

Relationship severed

They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices.

Judged

Psalms 81:11-12: “God gave them over”

- **11** "But My people did not listen to My voice,
And Israel did not obey Me.
- **12** "So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their
heart,
To walk in their own devices

**Note: The giving over
IS the judgment for
rejecting God**

Acts 7:42: God gives over certain Hebrews

- ⁴¹ That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made. ⁴² But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars.

Romans 1:24-25

God Gives Them Over To Their Lusts

- **24** Therefore **God gave them over** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. **25** For they *exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

Romans 1:26-27

God Gives Them Over To Their Passions

- **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.

Romans 1:28

God Gives Them Over To Their Depraved Minds

- *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,***

Romans 1:29-32

Mankind Absorbed and Filled With Sin

- **29** *They are filled with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice.*
- *They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, hostility.*
- *They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents, senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless.*
- **32** *Although they fully know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.*

Your relationship with God is essential

- The depraved sinful behavior Paul described is the result of God's judgment, not the reason for it.
- The reason God gave them over was the rejection of God and his truth. The depravity was the result of God's judgment.
- The issue is man's relationship to God.
- If he is rejecting God's testimony of love and mercy, it doesn't matter how many good works he has done.

The immorality is the judgment!

- [S]exual rebellion, license, and anarchy is the retributive judgment of God. The civilization of the western world, including the particular **civilization of the United States of America, is not a civilization in danger of contracting a fatal disease. That civilization has already contracted a malignant and fatal cancer through its unbelief of the message of God in Christ.** It is now hurrying on with increasing speed to final climactic destruction. Civilizations do not die because of violence, crime, immorality, and anarchy. These things are the evidences that death already is at work, It should be carefully noted that the apostle is not speaking of eternal punishment in these three verses. What he has specifically in mind is a judgment that pertains to this life, not to the life to come a death brought on by disobedience to the revelation of God... It should be carefully noted that the apostle is not speaking of eternal punishment in these three verses. What he has specifically in mind is a judgment that pertains to this life, not to the life to come.
- *S. Lewis Johnson, Jr. ThD*

ROMANS 1: Human Devolution Exhibited

- Men Knew God
 - Men Knew About God
 - God's Nature was Evident
 - Men Suppressed the Truth
 - Men Exchanged truth for lies
 - Men Exchanged Creator for creatures
 - Men Developed Idols and gods in their Own Image
 - Men Became Fools
 - Mens Foolish Hearts Were Darkened
 - Men add sexual depravity to idolatry

ROMANS 1: Human Devolution Explained

- The Pauline picture of the religious history of mankind is one of retrogression, not progression, of devolution, not evolution, downward, not upward. In unbelief man has passed from light to futility to folly.
- S. Lewis Johnson, Jr. ThD