

Sermon Title: The Pagan is Under the Sentence of Condemnation, Part 1

Sermon Text: Romans 1:18-23

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to understand the justified wrath of God against all sin.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 reasons why God's wrath against sin/sinners is justified.

Introduction:

1. Just nature of God

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*

Isaiah 45:21 Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me.

Exodus 15:11 "Who *is* like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

1 Samuel 2:2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For *there is* none besides You, Nor *is there* any rock like our God.

The wicked uninfluenced by [**Isaiah 26:10** Let grace be shown to the wicked, *Yet* he will not learn righteousness; In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, And will not behold the majesty of the LORD.]

The wicked do not obtain [**Isaiah 27:11** When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off; The women come *and* set them on fire. For it *is* a people of no understanding; Therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, And He who formed them will show them no favor. **Jeremiah 16:13** `Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day and night, where I will not show you favor.']

The wicked anger God everyday.

Psalms 7:11 God *is* a just judge, And God is angry *with the wicked* every day.

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

2. Is God righteous and just in His judgments.

Romans 2:6-8

Romans 3:5-6

Romans 16:6-7

3. The justice of God is not to be questioned.

Romans 9:18

Romans 9:20

Romans 9:22

I. The reason for condemnation of pagans is revelation. V.18-20

II. The reason for condemnation of pagans is rejection. V.21

III. The reason for condemnation of pagans is rationalization. V.22

IV. The reason for condemnation of pagans is religion. V.23

I. The reason for condemnation of pagans is revelation. V.18-20

The wrath of God is a controlled, determined response of a righteous God against sin. (Ps 2:5, 12; 45:7; Is 51:17; Jn 25:15-16; Jn 3:36; Rom 9:22; Eph 5:6; Col 3:5-6).

Various kinds of wrath are found in Scripture.

1. Eternal wrath (hell)
2. Eschatological wrath (which is the final Day of the Lord)
3. Cataclysmic wrath (like the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)
4. Consequential wrath (principle of sowing and reaping)
5. Abandonment wrath (which is removing restraint and allowing people to go to their sins)

Psalm 81:11 "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would *have* none of Me.

Proverbs 1:23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. **24** Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, **25** Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, **27** When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. **28** "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. **29** Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, **30** They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. **31** Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

Hosea 4:17 "Ephraim *is* joined to idols, Let him alone.

The wrath of God is constantly being revealed or manifested, made visible in at least 2 ways.

1. Indirectly through natural consequences of violating His universal law of morality.
2. Directly through personal intervention: Adam and Eve, Worldwide flood; fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorrah; Babylonian captivity; the cross of Jesus Christ.
 - a) Men sin against the being or personhood of God, this is ungodliness
 - b) Men sin against the will of God, this is unrighteousness
- A. Although the evidence from conscience (**1:19; 2:14**), creation (**1:20**) and God's Word is irrefutable, men choose to resist and oppose God's truth by holding fast to their sin (**cf Ps 14:1; Jn 3:19-20**).
- B. God has sovereignly planted evidence of His existence in the very nature of man by reason and moral law (**1:20, 21, 28, 32; 2:15**).
- C. The creation provides a clear, unmistakable message about God's person (**cf Ps 19:1-8; 94:9**). **Acts 14:15** and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, **16** "who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. **17** "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
Acts 17:23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: **24** "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. **25** "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. **26** "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27** "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'
- D. The Creator who made all that we see around us and constantly sustains it, must be a being of awesome power. (His eternal power revealed)

- E. This is His divine nature, particularly His faithfulness (**Gen 8:21-22**), kindness, and graciousness (**Acts 14:17**). (His God head reveals His Divine nature)
- F. God holds all mankind, individually responsible for their refusal to acknowledge what He has shown them of Himself in His creation. Even those who have never had an opportunity to hear the gospel have received a clear witness about the existence and character of God, and have suppressed it, but if they respond to the little they have from natural revelation, He will lead to gospel revelation.
(**Acts 8:26-39; 10:1-48; 17:27**)

II. The reason for condemnation of pagans is rejection. V.21

Man is conscious of God's existence, power, and divine nature through general revelation.
(**vv 19, 28**)

Man's chief end is to glorify God (**Lev 10:3; 1 Chr 16:24-29; Ps 148; Rom 15:5-6**), scripture constantly demands glorification of God (**Ps 29:1-2; 1 Cor 10:31; Rev 4:11**). To glorify God is to honor Him, to acknowledge His attributes and to praise Him for His perfection [**Exodus 34:5** Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. **6** And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, **7** "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."] It is to recognize His glory and to exalt Him for it. Failing to do this is to provide the greatest insult to the Creator.

They refuse to acknowledge that every good thing they enjoyed come from God the Creator.

Man's search for meaning and purpose is always vain, full of meaningless conclusions.

When man rejects the truth, the darkness of spiritual falsehood replaces it [**John 3:19** "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.]

III. The reason for condemnation of pagans is rationalization. V.22

Man rationalizes his sin and proves his utter foolishness by devising and believing his own philosophies about God, the universe, and himself. (**Is 44:9-20**)

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

Psalm 53:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; *There is none who does good.*

IV. The reason for condemnation of pagans is religion. V.23

Instead of starting in polytheism, the Bible says humanity started with knowledge of the one true God and then declined into polytheism as humans were separated from God and fractured from one another. Paul warns that loss of knowledge of the true God resulted in the worship of images resembling mortal man. (**2 Thess 2:3-12; Rev 13:1-18**). Man substitutes the worship of God, Historians report that many ancient cultures did not originally have idols.