

The passage from 1:18-32

Sermon Outline

1. Everyone under the wrath of God
2. Total depravity and sinfulness of Humanity:
 - a) The gentiles- people without the law
 - b) The Jews –People of the law

Summary of the passage

Relevancy for today.

Prayer

Total sinfulness and depravity of the whole human race

The wrath of God is revealed against all godlessness and wickedness of man who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

We heard last week about the gospel in which the righteousness of God given to us through faith. But why do we need this gospel and the righteousness of God. Can't we gain our own salvation, Cant we becomes righteous in our own ways, Are not our ways good enough.

NO says Paul, because God has revealed his wrath against all godlessness and sinfulness of humanity including of the Jews and Gentiles and that they have fallen short of his standards

Let us look at this in detail

Sins of the Gentiles.

Here in chapter 1: 19- 32 Paul talks about the failure of the gentiles before God, sins of the Gentiles, the expression “they” meaning the Gentiles= the barbarians the people outside the covenant.

Paul takes the crudest and the most depraved of human sins and lays it bare on the table and point the picture of Gentiles totally lost and steeped in sinfulness,

- They know God yet refuse to glorify him or accept him as God. Their wisdom and intellect became their God
- They claim to be wise, wiser than God e.g the Greeks sophia
- They gave glory to idols rather than the true God, they worshipped the stars, the signs, the moon sun and animals and man.- all sorts of worship except the worship of the true God
- They exchanged the truth of God for a lie; every thing that exalts itself above God is a lie, because there is only one God. A human being can have only one biological father and someone, who claims otherwise, is a lie, so any other being that claims to be God is pure lie.
- In verse 29-31 he details the further sins of the gentiles.

Rom 1:29-2:1

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

What did God do

- He revealed himself through his creation “ David said heavens declares his glory and the skies proclaim the work of his hands Psalms 19
- He gave them over to their desire, what was their desire –evil – evil desire produced evil works

- The end consequence of sin is death. Therefore, God has revealed his wrath not only upon those who committed such sin but upon those who approved of them

And what of they Jews

The sinfulness and hypocrisy of the Jews

Though the Jews were the chosen people and people of the law yet they too have failed to keep the law, look at the Old Testament it documents the failures of the Jews

1. When Moses went up to the mount they set a gold calf as a god and committed sexual immorality
2. They murmured against the Lord because of food
3. They claimed to be wiser than God was by rejecting his prophets and listening to their own wisdom
4. They did every kind of evil in the sight of God- burning their children to foreign gods, murder, adultery; they were heartless and ruthless.

They sinned against God as much as the Gentiles did.

Both are guilty of before God

Both come under the condemnation of God

Both have no excuse .

But the Jews went further

1. They assumed that because they were chosen people of God, God would overlook their rebellious and sinful nature
2. They believed that they were still better than the Gentiles were and judged them so although they were guilty of the same sins.

They could not keep the law. As we have seen before, they failed repeatedly. They had all the outward ritual yet when it came to obeying and keeping the law they failed

Paul says in Rom 2:3

So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment

(from New International Version)

NO, the Jews will not escape judgment, God's kindness, forbearance and patience for hundreds of years to the Jews was that so they might repent and accept the fact that they have failed and only through the Gospel can they be saved.

What can we deduce from these passages?

- That God has revealed himself to humanity through his creation but humanity chose to ignore and reject him and walked in their own evil ways, therefore God had given them over to their evil deeds.

- That all are sinners and capable of greatest depravity both the Jews and the Gentiles
- That we are not capable of saving ourselves and not capable of meeting the righteous demands of a Holy God whether we be Gentiles of conscience or Jews of the law. Both have failed to meet the requirements of God.
- That by playing righteous or executer of God's judgement on others will not allow the Jews to escape God's judgement.
- That God's mercy and patience is so that people might repent and turn to him and accept his Son as the source of their salvation.

What does it say to us today as a congregation

To those who do not know Christ as Lord and Saviour

1. Nothing that we do is good enough to save us. Nothing at all, the Bible tells us in all our righteous acts are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Imagine rags, in Australian the rags I think are quite clean but imagine a person who is living in the streets, unwashed and stinking , and imagine his clothing, we will move away as soon as the person comes near us. If our self-righteousness is so nauseating to God, imagine our sins. We fall short of God's standard. You need Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

To those who know Christ

We should not be presumptuous of the grace of God and continue to live in sin.

Remember God has given us the great gift of salvation but that freedom should not be used for sinful living

In Rom 6:12-13 it says

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

2. If we live a life of hypocrisy God will judge us, God is not looking for perfect Christians, he is looking for truthful and honest Christians who will acknowledge their weakness and shortcomings and depend on him.

Prayer