

ROMANS 1:18-32 — DENYING CREATION & GOD'S ABANDONMENT

The Bible's account of creation is often ridiculed by atheists. It is patronized by liberals. And it is even allegorized by some so-called conservatives. Of course this is God's own account of creation. And Jesus, who was the Creator (**Jn.1:1-3**), corroborated the creation account as well (**Mk.10:6-8**). God takes His account of creation seriously, and He will hold all accountable for what He says. Paul is explaining how the Gentiles got into the sinful darkness they are engulfed in. He shows a progressive downward trend. Paul is focusing on what is truth (**v.18,25**), and what is known about God (**v.19,21,28,32**). What is truth is that God is the Creator of all things. What is known about God is revealed through the conscience ("in them") and Creation ("unto them") (**v.19-20**).

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the **truth** in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be **known** of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the **creation** of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they **knew** God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And **changed** the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who **changed** the **truth** of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the **Creator**, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause **God gave them up** unto vile affections: for even their women did **change** the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and **receiving in themselves that recompence** of their error which was meet. ²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their **knowledge**, **God gave them over** to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³²Who **knowing** the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but **have pleasure in them that do them.**" (**Romans 1:18-32**)

They Knew God (Rm.1:18-20)

❖ REVELATION

- From the time of the creation man knew of God. Man was not in ignorance.

They Glorified Him Not as God (Rm.1:21-23)

❖ REJECTION

- Vain thinking and foolish reasoning have turned them from the truth to lies.

They Changed the Truth of God (Rm.1:24-25)

❖ RATIONALIZATION

- They exchanged God's truth with Satan's lie, which is worshipping the creature and not the Creator, and that man is his own God.

They Reject the Knowledge of God (Rm.1:26-32)

❖ RELIGION

- They do not even want the knowledge of God, and force this thinking upon society.

RELIGION • RATIONALIZATION • REJECTION • REVELATION

GOD'S JUDGMENT (WRATH) OF ABANDONMENT:

- ⤵ God Gave Them Up To Uncleanness And Idolatry (Rm.1:24-25)
- ⤵ God Gave Them Up To Vile Passions (Rm.1:26-27)
- ⤵ God Gave Them Over To Reprobate Minds (Rm.1:28)

These show that God abandoning sinful man is a form of judgment. God is jealous about His Creation. And denying it brings the serious judgment of God's abandonment. We often think of judgment coming in some powerful and outward manifestation like fire or floods. God gave them up means He permits them to go into their sins and reap the sad consequences. They receive in their own persons the due penalty of their error (**1:27**). This may include: (1) disease, (2) consequence of violating nature's order, and (3) spiritual emptiness. In this, "the wrath of God is revealed" (**1:18**). Those that reject what they know of God divorce themselves from truth and reality. They are genuinely "spiritually insane" in their rebellion against God. When mankind seeks idolatry and fleshly indulgences, their flesh is no longer satisfied with these pleasures. They long for something new and strange. Any nation or society that condones rejecting even the very knowledge of God may expect to experience this form of judgment. The list of sins in this passage, including homosexuality, is the outward expression of a society under this form of judgment. Why does God abandon a nation? Because the nation first abandoned God. The wrath of God (**v.18**) is already operating in any culture that expresses itself by openly condoning (approval of society) the sins described in this passage. Lifestyle sin is especially abhorrent to God.



God's Abandonment Examples:

- At the Fall of man, Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden (**Ge.3**). They no longer had the same fellowship with Him.
- Samson woke up and found he no longer had his strength (**Jd.13:5; 16:1-30**). Samson would not acknowledge his strength came from the Lord.
- Message to the northern tribes of Israel. "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." (**Ho.4:17**).
- Any culture or nation that condones and openly rejects the knowledge of God can expect this "wrath" (**v.18**) upon it.