

## STUDY PACK 3

### RESULTS OF A REBELLIOUS HEART

“Paul here enters upon a large discourse of justification in the latter part of this chapter laying down his thesis, and, in order to the proof of it, describing the deplorable condition of the Gentile world. His transition is very handsome, and like an orator: he was ready to preach the gospel at Rome, though a place where the gospel was run down by those that called themselves the wits; *for*, saith he, *I am not ashamed of it*, v. 16. There is a great deal in the gospel which such a man as Paul might be tempted to be ashamed of, especially that he whose gospel it is was a man hanged upon a tree, that the doctrine of it was plain, had little in it to set it off among scholars, the professors of it were mean and despised, and every where spoken against; yet Paul was not ashamed to own it. \_\_\_\_\_”

~~~~ Matthew Henry, *Commentary on Romans* ~~~~

#### I THE GUILT OF THE GENTILES

A. God is angry with the wickedness of this world, 1:18.

“The Revelation of righteousness, issuing forth from God and embracing man, has a dark background in that other revelation of Divine Wrath at the gross wickedness of men (v. 18).” *International Critical Commentary*, Ed. Driver, Plummer, and Briggs. *Epistle to the Romans* by W. Sanday and A. C. Headlam. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1900, 39.

B. Three stages of man’s depravity, 1:19-28.

1. The knowledge of God that is available to all from the witness of Creation, vs. 19-20 - \_\_\_\_\_.
2. General revelation is available to all who can perceive, v. 19.
3. That which cannot be proven can be clearly understood by correct conclusions of the facts presented, v. 20.
  - a. Mankind, who is a created being, can see all of God’s creations and is able to come to the knowledge that God has clearly shown.
  - b. Two things can be understood:
    - (1) God’s power
    - (2) God’s presence

c. Creation is without the excuse that they did not know of the existence of God.

4. Deliberately ignoring and rejecting that knowledge ended in idolatry, vs. 21-23.

a. Mankind knew God in the past.

This may refer to Adam and his children. Then God came down and visited man on a regular basis. Man regressed through the early chapters of Genesis. By the time Genesis 6 was recorded, Noah was the only one whom God said “found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” The rest of the world had willingly forgotten God.

This same description could apply to the generations after Noah who also forgot God.

It may be descriptive of any person who grows up in a gospel rich environment and willingly divorces it from his mind and plunges into the world.

b. Man did not appreciate (glorify) God \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Man was not thankful for \_\_\_\_\_.

d. Man began to use \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ truth error about God.

e. Man’s heart became convinced \_\_\_\_\_  
until he no longer understood truth about God.

f. Man’s growing knowledge was based on error so their system of living was foolish.

g. The glory of God was changed \_\_\_\_\_.

When an attempt is made to compare God to something on earth, then the image of God is made in man’s image. Lust becomes the spirit of God and self indulgence is the law.

Verse 23 is a good rationale for evolution. Man is made in the image of God but prefers to believe that he is in the likeness of a beast.

5. God allowed mankind to further degenerate into self-will and self-destructive behavior, vs. 24-28.

- a. God gave them up. This phrase is used in vs. 24, 26, 28. It does not seem to be a three step process as much as a three sided degeneracy. Man desired to be in the image of a beast so God allowed the beast in man to rule.
- b. Gave them to \_\_\_\_\_ - degenerated will. Truth was changed to a lie and the creature worshipped more that the creator.
- c. Gave them to \_\_\_\_\_ - degenerate emotions - sex and violence. Perversion had to progress because lust did not satisfy.
- d. Gave them to \_\_\_\_\_ - degenerate intellect.

**II. THE RESULT IS A CATALOG OF SINS OF DEPRAVITY, SELF-WILL, AND MISERY, VS. 29-32**

- A. Unrighteousness: that which is not lined up with God's rules.
- B. Fornication: sexual misconduct.
- C. Wickedness.
- D. Covetousness: wanting someone else's things, called Idolatry.
- E. Envy.
- F. Murder.
- G. Debate: strife.
- H. Deceit: using bait as a snare to deceive.
- I. Malignity: intense hateful ill will, desire to hurt.
- J. Backbiters: slander, stab in the back.
- K. Proud.
- L. Boasters.
- M. Inventors of evil.

- N. Disobedient to parents (escalating in rebellion against other authority).
- O. Without natural understanding: no discernment, amoral.
- P. Covenant breakers: will not keep their word or their vows.
- Q. Without natural affection: no love of kin.
- R. Implacable: not able to be made at peace. Will not stop being angry.
- S. Unmerciful: no feelings for anyone. “Never give a sucker an even break.”

They delight in evil and encourage others to do so, knowing full well that the judgment of God will follow. They do not seem to care.