

Title: What Do ~~Man~~ ^{People} Know About God?

without excuse and lost in sin and need a to be saved

Text: Romans 1:18-23

Take your Bibles, please, and Turn to Romans chapter 1. Romans chapter 1 beginning with Vs 18. Our subject: WHAT DO ~~MAN~~ ^{FOLK} KNOW ABOUT GOD?

Why are People Condemned

(Read Romans 1:18-23)

Prayer

In Romans chapter 1 verses 1 thru 17 we have the introduction to this tremendous book. In this introduction Paul deals with basical three things. In Vs 1-7 He outlines the character of the Gospel. This character deals with righteousness and faith. Then in Vs 8 through 15 Paul explains his concern for the Gospel. Then, third, in Verses 16-17 we learn something about the content of the Gospel. That we shouldn't be ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes.

(2A) Now, beginning with Vs 18 we enter the second section of Romans. This section begins with verse 18 and continues through chapter 8 Verse 39. And in these chapters we are going to look at the (2A) MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. And there are four principles found in these chapters.

a 2nd or your outline

1B First of all, there is ^{The principle of} condemnation....

2B Secondly, there is ^{The Principle of} justification...

3B Third, ^{Principle of} Santification

4B And, fourth, security....

We are going to be studying all four ^{principles} ~~of these concepts~~.

(1B) And the first one we will be looking at for a number of weeks, ^{The principle} ~~is~~ CONDEMNATION. WHY ARE ALL PEOPLE CONDEMNED? WHY IS EVERY PERSON ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD? *TO Night, I want you to look at the Biblical Principle of Condemnation*

If you have done much witnessing, you will agree that one of the first questions ask by the unbeliever is: DO YOU CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE CONDEMNED? *and will go to Hell!*

And the next question that follows is: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THOSE WHO HAVE EVER HEARD ABOUT JESUS ARE CONDEMNED? *and will go to Hell*

And at this point, many who ~~are~~ ^{Christians} believers, are not sure what or how to answer. Because you see, it is offensive to people to say, YES, ~~THAT IS WHAT WE BELIEVE~~ ^{we believe} ~~that~~ ^{all people are condemned}.

Now, maybe you do or you don't. But let's find out what the Bible says...
(1C) The Bible teaches, ~~first of all~~, that all ^{ungodly} people are condemned. There is no question about that. THE QUESTION IS WHY?... ^{Ep 2:1 - Says we are all dead in our trespasses and sin}

In these last verses of chapter 1, Paul deals with ~~an~~ ^{the} ungodly ~~man~~. A ^{person} man who is not responding to God. But in chapter 2 he will deal with a self-righteous ^{person} person. And ^{he} show you that even they are condemned just as much as ~~an~~ ungodly person. ^{But the question is why}

Now, why are the ungodly condemned? Why do we say that a ~~man~~ ^{everyone} who is not religious, who ~~does not~~ ^{emphasizes} his own righteousness, why do we say that he is condemned? Well, certainly condemned because of ~~his~~ sin. But God says that there is a more important reason. ^(1D) And that is because of ~~there~~ ^{their} rejection of the revelation of God in creation. ^{they} They reject the God of creation.

Have you ever related all things to this?

I have often said ~~and~~ and I really believe the more I see it in practice, ^{is} that the root of every problem in my Christian life is a misconception of who God is. No matter what it is, the root of every problem in a Christians' life is a misconception of who God is... And I will show you that through some application..

(1D) Now, the Bible says that all ^{people} men are condemned because they reject the revelation of God in creation. ^{And} there are three things that I want to share with you here. ^{Now}

(1E) Number one, according to Vs 18, these ^{people} people are suppressing the truth. The suppression of the truth is an obvious fact among ungodly people. Vs 18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and ~~unrighteousness~~ ^{in righteousness} of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

WHAT TRUTH?... What is ^{the truth} ~~is~~ that they are suppressing? It is the consciousness that there is a God to whom they are accountable.

You say, DO ALL PEOPLE HAVE THAT? Look at Vs 19.. "Because that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them."

So, According to the Bible God has already shown every person that He exists. That is why the Bible does not set out to prove the existence of God. The Bible assumes the existence of God. God is...God exists...Hebrews 11:6 says "that he who comes to God must believe that ~~He~~ is, and that ~~He~~ is a rewarder of them who seek him."

So, The first issue is: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD EXIST?...

You say, "but aren't there some people who ~~are~~ called Atheist? People who do not believe in the existence of God. And how ~~;~~ does this passage relate to ~~the~~ *those who are Atheist?*"

When I went on active duty as a chaplain, the final word that I recieved at the chaplain's school before going to Vietnam was: "REMEMBER MEN, THERE ARE NO ATHEISTS IN A FOXHOLE...."

Now, why did they tell us that?..... Because ~~they~~ ^{and I later learned} knew that under the proper pressure, the proper set of circumstances, the proper motivation, a ~~man~~ ^{person} will be forced to admit that which he already knows in his heart, that somehow, that somewhere, in this great universy there is a being greater than he is to which he may someday be accountable.

So, how does he deal with that enter feeling? He suppresses that truth which he knows is within him. His conscious bearing witness, ~~as we will learn~~ ^{to see that} from Chapter 2, and he suppresses it in sin...or, in unrighteousness.

Now, I understand that. Because even as a believer that is how I get rid of the truth. You see, ~~we~~ ^{we} just sin a little bit. ~~And~~ ^{and} ~~you see~~, the longer we go into sin the more we become insensitive to the truth. It is our little way ⁱⁿ getting out of the pressure. We keep wholing down the truth by the way we are living. ^{and} By the sin that is in our life. And that is the ^{way} ~~why~~ that the ungodly person is rejecting ^{the truth}

~~You see~~, ^{and} I think that all of you are aware that we are on a world wide plan to get rid of God. Have you noticed that. It is everywhere. We are doing all we can to get rid of God.

The question is WHY?..... Do you now understand from Romans chapter 1, WHY? It is because people know that ~~He~~ ^{God} exist. And so they are suppressing that truth of a ^{God} being who is greater than you and I.

They are suppressing that truth and even trying to reason what other possibilities there could be.

^{So} ^{do} Oh, yes, people know of the existence of God. I don't care what they say. ^{You} They know it because God promised to reveal His truth to ^{you} them..

O.K. WHAT HAS HE REVEALED? WHAT DO ^{you} THEY UNDERSTAND ABOUT GOD THAT MAKES ^{you} THEM ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM? THAT MAKES ^{you} THEM NOW SUPPRESS THAT TRUTH BY LIVING IN SIN? And convincing ^{yourself} themselves that it is not truth, that God really doesn't exist, and I will never be held accountable for what I am doing? WHAT IS IT?

(2E) Secondly, I would like you to ~~notice~~ notice in Vs 20 the seriousness of this rejection. Is it a serious matter not to recognize God's revelation in creation? ABSOLUTELY... ^{Because} According to Vs 20 you are without excuse. No ^{person} ~~person~~ has a leg to stand on before almighty God ^{if} ~~if~~ he rejects the God of creation. No leg to ~~stand~~ stand on.

Turn over to chapter 2 verse 1, In chapter 2 Paul deals with the self-righteousness man. But notice how he begins. "Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment."

Here, Paul will talk about a righteous, religious man. But notice he says "without excuse." That is the same word he uses in chapter 1 verse 20. Both are without excuse....No matter if you are righteous and religious, and doing all the right things, or, whether you are totally ungodly and sinful in your life. The Bible says that all are without excuse. Not one of us have a leg to stand upon.

^{and} Now, according to Vs 20 there is something that every person knows and can understand by the creation of the world...Notice what it is. Vs 20. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen."

Now, how?....how have these invisible things been seen?.....Vs 20 "being understood through what has been made."

What God has made in the universe, clearly shows to all of us some unseen attributes of God.

Now, what are the invisibel attributes? Vs 20 tells you..Two things: His eternal power.....and his divine nature.....

(1f) Now, his eternal power is easy to explain because if you look at the universe around you, you can't help but come to one conclusion. And that is that something bigger than you and I had to made had to make it. And this power had to exist before it all started. So, it is eternal, and it is not subject to the time it was designed.

So, a ~~man~~ ^{man} looks, wh~~et~~her he is in the deepest part of Africa or here in the United states, at the beautiful display...the mountains, the stars, the rivers, everything, and He knows of the existence of God....Period...

Oh, he dosn't know all the discription of God, the revelation of God in Christ. But he knows of the existence of God....Period....The heaven declare the ~~the~~ glory of God says the Psalmist.

(2f) Now, secondly, he also knows of ^{God's} ~~his~~ divine nature. You can look at the universe and know something about the dimine nature of God, as to design, as to order, as to the fact of what God must be in his nature. Because all of creation tells us something about God's divine nature. There is order, there is disgn ^{from purpose} in this universe.

~~He~~ You say, ~~he~~ does every person know that in his heart? God says that every person knows in his heart that there is an existence of being superior to himself. And the creation of the world has revealed it. And he is without excuse if he does not respond. He is without excuse.

Now, the little phrase "What has been made" is interesting. It comes from the Greek word "po'ama. Which translates into english as "poem".

God's "poem", his message to us, is in creation. This same word is used in Ephesian 2:10. Where Paul says that believers are his "workmanship." And it is the same Greek word "Pa'ama"...Poem.

So, you see, God's poem to the world is in craation. But it is also ["]the believer. We are God's love message to the world. The world sees a ^{revelation} ~~revelation~~ of God in the believers' life just as surely as they do in the creation of the world. Both are creations of God. It ~~is~~ a beautiful thing...

(3E) Now, beginning with Vs 21 I would like you to see the steps that led to this rejection. The steps that led down to this total rejection. They start with Vs 21 and end with Vs 23. This ungodly person is condemned and he is accountable. He is without excuse because he has rejected the revelation of God in creation. Now, notice these step downward.

(1E) Number one, they knew God, Vs 21 . It says "For even though they knew God" It assumes that every person has already possessed this knowledge. Every person starts with the knowledge of God. That is where he starts and they is what he is faced with. *You either go up the hill or you go downward.*

Now, the common way to over look that knowledge ~~that~~ is to neglect it in your life. To get rid of it is by sinning. And that is the meaning of Vs 18 when they suppress the truth. The truth which they themselves know in their heart "that there is a God." They suppress it by sinning.

You say, "Yes, that is the ungodly." *Isn't it nice the way ^{we} you can read scripture and always refer it to someone else? Beautiful isn't it?*

Listen, christian, God maybe talking to us, here, more than you know. While these are principles dealing with the unbeliever, I wonder about the believer. Knowing God...then what do we do ~~that~~ / with that knowledge?....

(2E) Step number two. According to the Bible they didnot glorify him as God.

In other words, the first basic error that they made was that they did not recognize God in his rightful place. He didnot receive the priority and pre-eminence in all things. *[That could also happen to the believer. ^{In the Believer's life} It is*

a the first step leading ^{away from Christ} ~~down~~. You don't recognize the sovereignty of God. At the root of every problem in our life is the misconception of who God is. So, we bring God down to our level. Or, we ignore a ^{part} ~~phases~~ of him that effects our life.

Let me give you an example. Suppose there is a way in which God ~~designed~~ designed you that you are not happy about. Maybe you get up in the morning and look in the mirror and know what I mean..(Ha).....You know, God must have did something wrong when he made me....Why did God make me with that big nose, you know...

Short person

And what happens, [?] And this is often true about young people which carries over into adult life and we don't know why. All the bitterness and resentment we have in older life, what happened.

A long time ago, back in childhood, we resented the way we were made. And as a result this led to many other things. Taking it out on people and so forth. And one day you wake up and you don't even realize what hit you. All you know is that you have the worst attitude in the world and you don't know how you got it. Well, you see ~~at~~ at the root of every problem is a misconception of who God is. You did not glorify God as God who made you the way he wanted ~~to~~. You are absolutely designed the way God wants you to be designed. You are different from every other human being. No one is like you. Everyone is different. And God designed you just like He wants you.

So, Are you glorifying Him as God. Are you putting Him in his rightful place of sovereignty over your life? Are you trusting His judgement that He is doing every thing right? Would you be like Joseph in Egypt who brother's sold him into slavery and say to those brothers: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." Could you say that? You see, ^{if you can't, you are not} ~~they didn't~~ glorify him as God.

(3) And the third step on the way down in Vs 21, is that they did not give thanks. And unthankful, an ungrateful spirit, resenting God and resenting the circumstance that he has caused, remember where all of that is coming from. It is coming because you have not glorified God in your life. You have not accepted the sovereignty of God. The fact that all things are happening according to his will.

You ^{say} ~~say~~ we believe in God. But we have a hard time believing that God knows all things. He knows what is going to happen in my life tomorrow, or even this afternoon. And thus we don't glorify God. And we then become unthankful for what every may happen tomorrow in my life, you see. Something or someone rubs you the wrong way, remember that God wanted that to happen to you. Instead of going around trying to correct everyone's attitude, trying to solve those problems, recognize that God wants it to happen to you.

SUPP

~~██████████~~ You say, ^{Bill} Pastor that is dumb. Is it? Rejoice and be glad said Jesus, for great is your reward in heaven. So, ~~they persecuted the prophets who were before you.~~

We actually blow the reward when we try to defend ourselves. The reward comes when we accept it and thank God for it. And to realize that that is just what I need, and to praise God for it.

^{you} ~~you~~ having trouble in your marriage, ^{you} ~~you~~ having trouble in your family, something going wrong, and you say: "WHY ~~DID GOD~~ CAUSE THIS TO HAPPEN ^{to me?}" At the root of every problem is the misconception as to who God is.... ~~God~~ ~~caused~~ it...God wants it in your life....Do you thank God for everything that is happening in your life? Oh, I know this is hard. It is hard for me... Everything that is coming into your life to say "Thank you, Lord, it is just what I need."

But These are the steps down. They became ungrateful. Why? Because they didn't put God ^{FIRST} in the priority list. They didn't recognize Him ^{for who He is} ~~what he says he is.~~ ~~says he is.~~

(4F) Now, let's look at the next step. Vs 21 "They became futile in their speculations. What does that mean? The word "futile" or "vain" means "empty". And it deals with something that has been caused. I didn't do it. Something caused it. But there is a reason why it was caused. ~~██████████~~

The point is that God caused me to be empty. Nothing is there in a particular area of my life which is: "speculations" or 'imagination". We have an English word which comes from this word "dialog".Dialog or "reasonings."

Notice, if you are not thankful, if you are not glorifying God in all that you are doing, the next thing ^{is} ~~is~~ that you try to explain why things are happening in your life, you see. ^{mind} Dumb speculations

You will tell other folks, and you will try to convince yourself why things are happening. ^{Did you give "speculations"?}

Do you know what the Bible says God will do to you, for that? ^{alike?} He will make it all empty. It will be nothingness. And you will wind up totally ~~frustrated.~~ ^{and discouraged in your life}

-9- ~~Charles Keenan~~ - (1) LACK faith
(2) SATAN Busting you

And you find yourself trying to come up with reason as to why all these things are ~~also~~ happening to you. And God will just cause you to end up in total frustration. Unhappy and unthankful. WHAT IS THE ROOT PROBLEM?.... Not glorifying God. That is the root problem.

(5F) Step five, Vs 21 "their foolish heart was darkened." Again, it is what ^{happened} caused to you. God is going to darken your heart.

Now, the word "foolish", here, means "unintelligent." What happens is that God will force your mind into a condition where it can't even understand the things that you are reasoning about to explain why God is doing what he is doing. Isn't that fascinating?.

You know, I look at this, and I realize how foolish I have been at times in my life when I have been so frustrated and ~~depressed~~ depressed over things that were happening in my life. And I have to go over these step again to find the root problem. And the root problem is that I haven't been glorifying God. Thus, I become unthankful and I resent what He is trying to do in my life. And I become very frustrated and empty and all my reasoning in trying to explain it. And I discover that my mind can't even comprehend it anymore. It becomes darkened. It doesn't focus in on anything.

Well, God might be doing that to you in order to get you back to the point where you will say: "GOD! YOU ARE GOD! AND PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING." It is all a part of your great design and will and purpose. And I thank you for it... ^{Repent and accept as Lord and Savior}

(6F) Then will you notice step six. Vs 22.. "Professing to be wise, they became fools." Like a ⁶⁰ 60 year old man ^{turning} after a 20 year old girl

Again, they were made foolish. God will do it again. WHY? Because they confessed to be wise. So many educated people professing to be wise are really in darkness. Their reasonings ^{are} empty. They are not really solving anyones problems. Have you ever noticed that... WHY? BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT GLORIFYING GOD ^{in their L.F.}

(7F) The seventh step is found in Vs 23 and it is the bottom. This is ^{our} man's final little cop-out in trying to take care of the problem ^{of trying to} ~~of trying to~~ ^{hid from God}

Vs 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."

Do understand what is happening? I now ^{decide} ~~desire~~ that I can run my own life I can do what I want to do. And I am in control. And so I exchange the glory of the incorruptible God ~~into man~~ ^{for me}. I become ~~human~~ ^{sinful} to the point that I believe man is in control of his destiny.

Man is running his own life. And I usually spell it with one letter.. "I"....that is how "I" spell it.

I am not really interested in man in total. I am interested in "I". And so "I" begins to explain it, you see. And "I" takes the throne of the incorruptible God. And that is the final step down. And God says, "You are without excuse." "You are accountable to me." ^{You are lost - You need a savior}

Now, ^{people} ~~man~~ may go so far in ^{their} ~~his~~ primitive knowledge to make his fears into the image of a bird or an animal or whatever. But, ^{the point is} man is substituting his ~~own little problem for God's~~ ^{self} ~~in the place of God~~

It maybe things, it maybe my career, my job, my marriage, my personal pleasures and happiness, and we exchange the glory of God for our own little images.

It reminds me of what John said in I John 5:21 "My little children, keep yourself from idols."

~~Anything~~ Anything that stands between ^{you} and the glory of God, recognizing his priority and pre-eminence in ^{your} life, ^{your} home, ^{your} family, ^{your} job, that God has caused everything in ^{your} life. And He wants it to be there ^{as an idol}

Listen, my friends, God has each one of us right now just where he wants us. Now, I know that is hard to accept. But let me remind you of what Paul said in Romans 11:36 "for from Him and through him and to him are all things." You see, not some things. But alllll things.

They come out-off God as the source, the cause. They are operating ~~through~~ through God as the channel. And they are going to have their final object and goal..unto God. Everything...

So, Why not, right now, say: "God, I thank you for all that you are doing in my life. And get those false God's out of your life

And if you are not sure that one day you are going to be with God in heaven forever, then, settle this matter right now. Know that you are without excuse. The glory of the incorruptible God has been revealed in creation. *So* Then come down on your knees to God at the foot of the cross and believe by faith what God says is his righteousness. Jesus died for your sins. Believe *the* Gospel of Christ. Because the Bible teaches that you are without excuse. He that believeth not, says John 3:18, is condemned all ready. Not something that is going to happen to you. You are already under condemnation. Simply because you are not believing, solely, in Jesus Christ for your salvation. *So, turn it around - Believe - Confess your sin - and receive Jesus as your savior.*

Let us Close in prayer