

## Lesson Two – Guilty Hearts Romans 1:18-32

*“The gospel as the power of God unto salvation is meaningless apart from sin, condemnation, misery and death. This is why Paul proceeds forthwith to demonstrate that the whole world is guilty before God and lies under his wrath and curse.” – John Murray*

1. There is a drastic change of tone as we move into this section of Paul's letter to the Romans. Verse 18 starts with the “wrath of God” What is Paul talking about?

2. Against whom is the wrath of God revealed?

3. Why is mankind under God's wrath (even those without a Bible)?

4. What is the first way God has revealed himself according to verse 19?

5. Why do men suppress the truth?

6. Verse 20 tells us that “since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes have been clearly seen. What is the second way we see evidence of God?

7. What is the big idea that Paul has in view in verse 21 ?

8. What is Paul talking about when he says “but their thinking became futile” or as the King James says it “became vain in their imaginations”?

9. And what does this lead to?

10. Looking at verse 23 why do you think man exchanged the glory of God for images made to look like mortal man....?

Having talked about the cause of mankind's rebellion (1:19-23) and briefly discussed its results Paul now reminds us of the link between the cause (1:25) and the logical results (1:26-31). “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie” In doing so he lost not only the truth God’s existence but also the truth about the universe and about himself. (Francis Schaeffer)

11. What are some of the ways we worship or serve the creature rather than the Creator according to verses 24 & 25?

Isaiah 44:9-20 gives us a picture of the foolishness of man’s thinking. Read and think about this passage in light of Romans 1.

12. What does he say we end up with?

13. In verse 26 we read that “their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.” What is he talking about?

14. Paul's meaning in the first part of vs 27 is pretty obvious but what is he communicating when he says “and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion”?

If anyone thinks that Christians regard unchastity as the supreme vice, he is quite wrong. The sins of the flesh are bad, but they are the least bad of all sins. All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual; the pleasure of putting other people in the wrong, of bossing and patronizing and spoiling sport, and backbiting; the pleasure of power, of hatred. For there are two things inside me, competing with the human self which I must try to become. They are the Animal self, and the Diabolical self. The Diabolical self is the worse of the two. That is why a cold, self-righteous prig who goes regular to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But, of course, it's better to be neither. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

15. Read verses 28 through 32. Write down your observations about the sins Paul has listed.

16. In verse 24 and 25 why do you think God “gave them over” to the sinful desires of their hearts? What is his purpose?

17. Look at Acts 5:1-11, Duet. 32: 48-52, Gen. 19:15-17 & 26, Num. 15:32-36 and Joshua 7: 10-25. From these passages what are ways God deals with disobedience and evil?

18. Now reread verse 32, how would you sum up this verse in light of what you have learned from your studies so far?