

"The Bad News!"

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Romans 1:18-32

The Bible speaks of God's wrath, but how can God be angry with people who've never even heard of Jesus?

Romans 1:1-17 introduces "good news." But before describing it more fully in chapter 3:21 and following, the Apostle Paul spells out the "bad news" in 1:18-3:20;

1:18-21 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him..."

God is angry! "As long as God is God he cannot look with indifference as his creation is destroyed and his holy will is trodden underfoot. Therefore (because he loves his creation) he must meet sin with his mighty and annihilating reaction." **And who is God angry with?** He is angry with those "who suppress the truth..." **And how do they suppress the truth?** They suppress the truth when "what may be known about God is plain to them," but they intentionally ignore the God who reveals himself and do those things which are contrary to his will ("wickedness"). This truth about God, which people suppress, is very specific, very "plain: and God very intentionally gives it. No one can legitimately later say God was unfair because He didn't let them know. God made it plain. But **what is it about God that they know?** They know "God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature." According to this verse, every person knows two things about God: They know His "divine nature" - that He is God and He is there; And they know His "eternal power," that He is all-powerful. **And how are these truths known?** They "are clearly seen, being understood from what has been made." That's right, this knowledge of God comes from just living in this world, from seeing what God has created, it is sometimes called "natural" or "general" revelation.

In verses 21-32 we then see what people do instead of responding to God - they create a "god," religion or philosophy of their own and follow their own wills into all kinds of sin.

Religion is not mankind's attempt to find God but mankind's attempt to avoid the true God.

We are all (including those who have never heard of Jesus) condemned to God's wrath because we have rejected the knowledge of God already available to everyone. That's why we all need a Savior. The bad news is that we are under God's wrath. The good news is that the God/man Jesus, made Himself available through the cross and resurrection to forgive and restore those who will come to Him and trust in Him as Saving Lord (see the next section: The Good News).

For a more thorough treatment of this text, link here: