



Sermon Notes | Mankind Revealed | Romans 1:18-23

## **INTRODUCTION**

We continue to follow the argument that Paul is presenting as he introduces the '**gospel of God**' in chapter one of Romans. Today, beginning at verse 18 through to verse 23 (and from chapters one through three of Romans), Paul will delve into why we need the '**good news**', and why it is the '**good news**' and not 'just news'. Paul will take time to show us this.

And we are about to come to 'unpleasant realities' in the theme of this passage. We preface this point of the study because as people, we don't like 'unpleasant realities'. Life is hard enough. We have a strong aversion to what we don't like, the queasy uncomfortable situations. We don't want to feel it even if it is real and true and evident. We tend to avoid anything unpleasant, anything that makes us uneasy, or upset: people, news, funerals. We don't want pain. We want to avoid death. Make it all go away. It is inevitable. We avoid everyone and everything that makes us upset or uncomfortable, and this impacts our life. Biblically speaking, this instinctive 'reflex' of avoiding is known as '**suppression**'. It is our tendency to avoid anything unpleasant or upsetting, and thus we are quite apt to '**suppress the truth**'.

Romans 1:18-23

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

We need God to renew and articulate the truth of our human condition.

"Men, by their unrighteousness '**suppress**' the truth" (1:18b). This verse frames the entire section right through to the end of chapter 3.

Paul starts by looking at the 'big picture'. Mankind, Jew and Gentile, **'suppresses the truth'**. Chapter 5 of Romans will show how we got ourselves into this disastrous predicament, but here, we see why the world around us is an 'unpleasant reality'. Mankind has a problem. It is not that he is questioning if God exists. Man's problem is that he is a 'truth suppressor'. And **'truth suppression'** is a moral problem. Always, from the very beginning, man's problem has been **'moral'**. Adam and Eve, after their sinning, 'instinctively' think they can 'hide from God'. This 'instinct' is sin.

Genesis 3:8-10

*"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.'"*

Oh, the folly of this picture! And on and on it goes. In the very next chapter we find Cain, Adam and Eve's son, also striving to **'suppress the truth'**. Having killed his brother Abel, God calls Cain to account, and when God asks Cain where his brother Abel is, Cain seeks to avoid the direct question asked. He **'suppresses the truth'** with a lie and no remorse, and a change of the subject. 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

Genesis 4:8-9

*"Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?'"*

And what about Korah who resisted and rebelled and **'suppressed the truth'** in Numbers 16? Korah has complained against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. 'You've gone too far,' he declares! Korah states that they 'all' are holy, that all of them are set apart unto God. He wants to flatten all the role distinctions, wants to have the same rights and privileges of the priesthood. But Korah has missed the point and has misrepresented Moses, Aaron and the priesthood before the people. The leaders are not exalting themselves; God has appointed them, and given them these specific roles and privileges. Korah sees only part of the truth, and thus rebels against God's will, and God responds in judgment against Korah and his supporters.

Numbers 16:2-3, 8-11, 28, 31-33

*"And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well known men. They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, 'You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?... ' ... And Moses said to Korah, 'Hear now, you sons of Levi: is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the LORD and stand before the congregation to minister to them, and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? Therefore it is against the LORD that you and all your company have gathered together. What*

*is Aaron that you grumble against him? ...' ... And Moses said, 'Hereby you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, and that it has not been of my own accord.' ... And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.'*

Further along we come to the 'kings of the earth' who '**suppress the truth**' also, and set themselves against the LORD and his anointed, against His Son.

Psalm 2:1-4

*"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD  
and against his Anointed, saying,  
'Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.'  
He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision."*

The nations of the earth are like Babylon. Jeremiah 50:13 They rejoice in unrighteousness and rebellion. This is mankind '**suppressing the truth**' in their unrighteousness, in their rebellion. And in turn, '**the wrath of God**' remains on them, and they 'shall not be inhabited,' and shall become 'desolate'. This is who man is. Such is so even in Israel.

Jeremiah 50:6

*"My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold."*

Mankind resists unpleasant things. When '**truth**' is hard, we want none of it. Mankind has no problem with the positive things, the good stuff, the stuff that does not seem to impact anyone. We are okay with chatting about the 'loving Jesus', for example, but what of the whole '**truth**'? That bad awful hard '**truth**' that we want to resist? Yet it is no less '**truth**' and provides a straight right-up diagnosis that requires a right response, for '**truth**', good or bad, can be coped with, with God's help. When doctors are saying forward-thinking facts, it is helpful info, and receiving and taking medicine can be a positive action, but the person needs to accept that they are sick in the first place. The same is '**true**' in our spiritual lives.

And so, Romans 1 is the scaffolding, the backdrop of history launched. But then in the second century, Marcion, son of a bishop, refused to believe that the God of the Old Testament was the same God of the New Testament. He could not deal with, did not like, a God full of 'wrath and justice'. His response, therefore, was to get rid of parts of Scripture. He took out Luke and Paul's letters, cut and pasted, shaped and recreated a butchered mini book, a picture that he liked, with all the tough and hard stuff cut out, with the hard stuff of God's wrath purged. No surprise, of course .... We know Marcion because his butchered book took hold. People liked it. Marcion was excommunicated by the Church Fathers, but his book got a hearing because people liked the cutting out of the hard stuff.

During the 1960's Britain's Woodford Church Study looked at the Psalms and concluded that eighty-four Psalms were not fit for Christians to sing, that the 'wrath and vengeance' references were not compatible with the Christian '**gospel**' message of 'love and grace'.

And most recently, Andy Stanley, the mega church star, made waves when he announced that what we really need is to unhitch from the tough and hard stuff of the Old Testament. The New Testament, the 'gospel of Jesus' was the way to go, completely detached from the Old Testament and the hard stuff. His 'unhitch the Old Testament' '**truth suppression**' statement was nothing new. Such is '**mankind revealed**'.

God has revealed who He is and who man is, and therefore mankind has never had an excuse for not responding rightly to God, and to His power and His nature. There simply is, 'no excuse!' Thus we look at three revelations of God about mankind.

### **I. THE REVELATION AGAINST MANKIND: (v. 18)**

Romans 1:18

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."*

It is stated very clearly: "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven". Unless we cut and paste, there is no getting around this fact. This '**truth**' is brought up again and again, in Romans 3, Romans 5, Romans 12, and Romans 13, and elsewhere also.

Ephesians 2:3

*"--- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."*

Ephesians 5:6

*"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."*

Colossians 3:5-6

*"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming."*

I Thessalonians 1:9-10

*"For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

And on and on. With eyes to see, it is all over the New Testament and the Old Testament. So then, we shall deal with '**the wrath of God**'.

## What is '**the wrath of God**'?

First, let us consider what it is not. It is not like the wrath of man, which is ugly and different, and is self-centered, it being the 'age of self', an imposed self standard which is increased when opposed. Human wrath is vindictive. It says 'vengeance is mine'. It is 'self' full of pride, and 'self' on a pedestal. It is a verbal tirade; a punching post. Sadly, it is intent on harm. 'Sticks and stones'. The words flow out of our fallenness, out of our own unrighteousness. This human wrath is a problem. It is not like '**God's wrath**'.

'**The wrath of God**' is different from the wrath of man. It is not of man. **God's wrath** is God's divine, perfect, personal (not general) response to unrighteousness. It is '**righteous indignation**' towards human sinfulness. **God's wrath** is '**righteous**', good, and needed because it flows perfectly out of God's righteousness. It brokers, it upholds God's righteousness. Without such '**wrath**' there is no '**righteousness**'. (If you don't know A, then you don't know B. Taste sweet to know bitter.) But from God's 'righteous wrath' one comes to knowledge about B from the very converse. Hence, you don't know God's 'righteousness' fully without knowing 'His wrath'. God's attributes, His nature and character, cannot be cut up and separated. God is ONE in who He is! '**The wrath of God**' is perfect in balance therefore. God is perfect in love, and therefore He is perfect also in hate. This is true of God the Father, and likewise, it is revealed in Christ His Son also.

Hebrews 1:8-9

*"But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'"*

'**The wrath of God**' reveals to us that there is no cheap grace. God's Attributes reveal the sum of 'divine completeness' found in His ONENESS, in His solitariness. '**The wrath of God**' demonstrates how high and lofty the '**righteousness**' of God reveals. There is no such thing as cheap grace. We've been saturated with 'cheap grace' but NO, '**the wrath of God**' unveils/reveals that it was NOT just a matter of Christ laying down flesh. There was a high cost paid! There was a high cost because of what He, the Christ, bore. Christ agonized, even before the cross. Christ faced bearing '**the wrath of God**' for the sake of mankind. This was the high cost of the '**gospel**'.

Mark 14:22-36

*"And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful even to death. Remain here and watch.' And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'"*

'God's wrath' reveals the high cost. Nothing was new. It was present and always was. They knew that '**the wrath of God**' existed, but they had not fully understood it. They knew it upheld the '**righteousness**' of God. They knew 'the wrath of God' was always

present. They knew the 'righteousness' of God was always present. They knew examples of 'God's wrath' being present, such as with Korah, and other examples.

Numbers 16:46

*"And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun."*

Psalm 2:5, 12

*"Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury. ... Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled."*

Jeremiah 50:13

*"Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited but shall be an utter desolation; everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled, and hiss because of all her wounds."*

This is '**the wrath of God**' through time amongst God's people, the kings, and pagan nations. It has both a future and present sense. The future '**wrath of God**' to be poured out on the Day of the LORD, a time coming when '**wrath**' will be poured out on the 'unrighteous'. And smaller previews, outpoured in moments, at different times, seen along the way, such as the Garden of Eden expulsion, the Flood, the various plagues, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Fall of Jerusalem. Both present and future, bound together, not exclusive, but slowly mounting through time, building up, and all pointing to an 'ultimate' pouring out. Did the Flood cure it? NO! Did man stop being 'unrighteous'? NO! John chapter 3 speaks to the mounting and stored '**wrath of God**'. What is this mounting '**wrath**'? This is the '**truth**' and its context concerning this '**wrath of God**'.

John 3:16

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Nicodemus questions how this can be, and Jesus continues to explain. Man needs eyes to see, and needs regeneration. He has not come to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved.

John 3:17

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

So, where is the '**wrath**'?

John 3:36

*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."*

He who does not 'believe' in this Son is condemned already, but whoever 'believes' is not condemned. The believer shall have eternal life, but **'the wrath of God'** remains on the unbeliever, and they are condemned already. Obey the Son. Kiss the Son. Repent to the Son. Turn to the Son. Otherwise, **'the wrath of God'** remains on them. This is why it matters. This is the urgency, not because we like to talk about it, but because the text states it is so. **'The wrath of God'** remains on them, and **'truth suppression'** is sin. Whoever is not obeying, not kissing the Son, not repenting, not letting go of self-serving, then **'the wrath of God'** remains on them. Present **'wrath'** is hanging over the disobedient man, looming over the mounting and building 'unrighteousness' until that day! Jonathon Edwards aptly paints the expressive picture of 'the spider dancing over the flame' to illustrate sinners in the hands of God, facing His **'wrath'**. That Day of Judgment is coming when **'wrath'** will ultimately be poured out, most patiently, most soberingly, most completely, and forever. Eternal suffering, forever. This is **'the wrath of God'** revealed, **'the wrath of God'** which will be endured forever, **'the wrath of God'** which will be against all the ungodliness and against all the unrighteousness of man. (1:18) It covers both standing and practise, all of the ungodly postures. Good deeds are not enough to change this **'truth'**. Claiming God but not living for the LORD demonstrates **'suppressing the truth'**. Their deeds assent to their ungodliness; the flag, the agreement, the family chuckle at the table, the silence when unrighteousness is brought up. The **'wrath of God'** is against their unrighteousness, against their practices which are not right, and will be 'unveiled' in the days ahead. We cannot skip over this revealed **'truth'**. Yet on the other hand, to those who 'believe' in the Son, Christ, shall come blessing and no condemnation.

Romans 4: 7-8

*"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."*

## **II. THE REVELATION BEFORE MANKIND: (vv. 19-20)**

Romans 1:19-20

*"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

And so Paul continues. Mankind has no excuse for not responding to God rightly. We are not proving God's existence. The Bible never talks like that. The Bible just states 'God is' and what can be known about God is plain before us. God has not revealed Himself directly in a tree or cloud, but has shown Himself to humanity in what He has already done. Therefore, mankind is without excuse. The invisible God shows His visible attributes in what He has made. His very perfection is made known through Creation and what He has made. He has eternal power beyond this world. It was necessary to have made this Creation, this world, His divine nation, for the otherness of God declares His glory.

Psalm 19:1

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."*

Psalm 19:2-6

*"Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

*In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

*Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat."*

Nothing is hidden. There is a general revelation given. Paul addresses this revelation as he opens the letter to the Romans. The **'gospel'** reveals the **'righteousness'** of God.

Romans 1:1-6

*"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."*

This is different from natural theology. Yes, God is evident in Creation. People say therefore that even tribesmen can be saved by looking at the stars. But no, man cannot be saved by 'natural revelation'. Man needs 'special revelation', the perfect law of the Lord that reveals the soul. Paul points to the Romans, for example, some who are granted this revelation.

Romans 1:7

*"To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints."*

Paul goes on to explain how the Word of God works in the salvation of man.

Romans 10:14-17

*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

They cannot believe until they've heard the Word! How then is man saved? Man is saved by **'hearing the Word of God'**, the perfect law of the Lord, that revives the soul. By **'special revelation'**, by 'hearing the Word of God', by being **'called'** by God (Romans 1:7); this is what saves man, and it is done through **'faith'** in the Son, Jesus, and the **'faith'** comes from hearing the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) When man sees the stars, he yearns for



God, and yearns to be closer to God. But then '**special revelation**' reveals that there is a 'problem' with man getting closer to God. Everyone needs to know about this problem. It is not an indictment against those who say there is no God. No. Everyone knows that God is, therefore this is an indictment against how man responds to God. The 'created' knows that there is a Creator. This is seen in the stars, the forests, the mountains. Every foolish heart knows 'of God', but does not 'honour' God. He '**suppresses**' doing that. But Paul goes on to point out that there is no excuse for such a response. Man is required to respond to God in reverence and in thanksgiving.

Romans 1:20

*"For his (God's) invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

### **III. THE REVELATION ABOUT MANKIND: (vv. 21-23)**

Romans 1:21-23

*"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

'**Suppression of truth**' results in futile emptiness. Their thinking becomes 'nonsense', and their heart becomes darkened, which leads to further '**suppression**' and mind emptiness. We have been made to know this. The wonder of a new born child and the miracle of its birth is recognized. Therefore, 'honour God' for this '**truth**'. It is dangerous to keep on '**suppressing the truth**' and to become a 'nonsense thinker'. It is 'futile' behaviour, for the mind empties more and more, causing the heart to become foolish also, and when the heart becomes foolish, it darkens, and causes further heart disease. It leads to impending, crushing, and permeating darkness.

Paul adds a final indictment on '**truth suppression**'. Though they claimed to be wise, "they became fools" (Romans 1:22). The quenching clarity of God's Word cuts through the jargon of the day. We are overrun by people who 'claim wisdom' by following science, who give authority to unelected officials, such as the Supreme Court officials, who cannot then state what a woman is. This is 'foolish' mental nonsense and demonstrates a darkened heart; 'fools', claiming to be wise, yet in their babble "they became fools".

And now to us. It is easy to say 'yes' to that, and down with them, but whenever we '**suppress the truth**' as individuals, we bring folly. It is not just a cultural thing. We can be 'saved' and still '**suppress the truth**'. Even being 'regenerated', we can do much to '**suppress**'. So then, what of our own folly? We joke about stubbornness, for example, but we should not, for stubbornness is a '**truth suppression**'. When we cling to something stubbornly, something we know is wrong, it leads to 'mental emptiness' and 'darkness of heart'. This is not honouring or thankfulness to God. The gravity continues with bowing down to creeping things. Genesis chapter 1 gave man dominion over the animals. To bow

down to them becomes a 'worship exchange'. Mankind was created in the 'image' of God, with the 'glory' of God. He should not treat this **'truth'** lightly or carelessly.

Genesis 1:26-28

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God recreated man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth'."*

Man was given dominion over the creeping things. This was a 'given' position by God, yet we 'turn' the given roles, and serve the creature, 'not the Creator'. We reverse the mandate given, and work downwards, not upwards. God's response was to 'give them up'.

Romans 1:24-25

*"Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."*

Paul unmistakably used 'Creation language'. He is illustrating that they, the Romans, are headed for living backwards by doing such, in both their salvation and sanctification. Why? It is **'truth suppression'**. A commentator remarked, "To exchange the glory of the immortal God for one that exists outside of Creation, and is not subject to its inevitable eyes, to exchange such immortal glory for that which is at this very moment caught in the process of decay, well that indicates the abysmal ignorance of fallen humanity."

We cling to decaying things, to the things we have made. We say, 'I made you, now deliver me!' But this is exchanging the glory of God for an ox eating grass.

Psalms 106:20

*"They exchange the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass."*

It is the reality of the Exodus 'golden calf' when Aaron tried to ascribe to the 'golden calf' the LORD's attributes by saying, "These are your gods, O Israel..." Exodus 32:4 ESV

Isaiah 44:6-8

*"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.  
Let him declare and set it before me,  
since I appointed an ancient people.  
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen."*

*Fear not, nor be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me?  
There is no Rock; I know not any."*

This is **'true suppression'** for he cannot see the lie, even with it before him, in his own hands. He cannot deliver himself, and the wood in his hands is powerless. He falls down to worship, and feeds on the ashes of his deluded heart. He has been led astray! He cuts down a tree. It serves many purposes, fuel for fire for warmth, and making bread, cooking meat, and then with its leftovers he makes an idol.

Isaiah 44:17-19

*"And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, 'Deliver me, for you are my god!' They know not, nor do they discern, for he (God) has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, 'Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an 'abomination'? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?'"*

**'Truth suppression'** leads here every time. He has worked so hard, but he does not see or understand the lie he has created. He cannot deliver himself. He is powerless, as Romans will show. He is on a path of being 'given over' that he himself has caused, yet in that he cannot deliver 'himself'. Naturally, this is where we would all end up without repentance and the intervention of God.

**'The wrath of God'** is before us, and it is **'wrath'** that we deserve to bear. But the **'good news'** is that Christ came to make a way of escape for us.

John 3:36

*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."*

John 3:16

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life."*

Are you in Christ?

It is the only way to escape the **'wrath of God'**.

Are you in Christ?

Not **'suppressing truth'** .... HE IS THE ONLY WAY!

Christ came. He knew what He must do. He bore that **'wrath'** that was rightly ours, that **'wrath of God'** that had our names on it. He bore that **'wrath'** and rescued us. Only in Christ, only with **'repentance'** of sin and unrighteousness, and only with **'faith and trust'** in God can **'wrath'** be overcome. Then it becomes clear, their deeds are no longer

like the world, and they are declared 'delivered and free' from bearing the '**wrath**'. They now look like Jesus. But this is '**truth**' only for those who respond rightly.

This is the reality of the '**righteous wrath of God**'. In Christ we no longer must '**suppress the truth**'. We are free.