

The Person of the Lord Jesus and the righteousness of God are the **great thesis** of the communications of God.

1. The Lord Jesus revealed as the Deliverer, the Son of God, claimed the obedience of faith.
2. The other, still on the principle of faith, revealed as the ground on which man could have a part in purposed blessing through grace.

Paul turns to what made this righteousness of God necessary to us. **1:18** *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness."*

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This verse tells us of the incompatibility of God's nature with evil.

God's wrath was revealed against everything inconsistent with His nature - wrath from heaven against all **ungodliness** and,

Where the truth was known, and men might seem to be nearer to God, as the Jews, if held in **unrighteousness**, wrath was against those who held it also.

Paul then shows on what ground the judgment went, **against all men**:

1. The ground of the condemnation of the **heathen** is creation testimony, and their not retaining God in their knowledge; for in Noah that knowledge had been given. To the end of Chapter 1.
2. On the **moralizers**, in the beginning of [Romans 2](#); and
3. From [Romans 2:17](#) **on the Jew**, which goes on to [Romans 3:20](#).

*28 And just as they did **not see fit to** acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

*28 And just as they **did not approve** to have God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a mind disapproved [of Him], —to practice things not befitting [His creatures];*

dokimazō, "to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the person tested meets the specifications prescribed, to put one's approval upon him."

The human race put God to the test for the purpose of approving Him. Should He meet the specifications which they laid down for a God who would be to their liking, and finding that He **did not meet** those specifications, it refused to approve Him as the God to be worshipped, or have Him in its knowledge.

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The human race put God on trial (*dokimazō*), and because it rejected Him after the trial, God gives the race a "**trialess**" mind, one **incapable of discharging the functions of a mind with respect to the things of salvation.**

They pronounced disapproval of the true God *adokimos*, and would have none of Him, and He in turn gave them up to a *nous adokimos* (**a disapproved mind**), **a mind which is no mind** and cannot discharge the functions of one, **a mind in which** the divine distinctions of right and wrong are confused and lost, so that God's condemnation cannot but fall on it at last.

²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*

"Being filled" is a perfect participle. The perfect tense in Greek speaks of a past completed action having present results.

There follows a list of evils with which man has *filled* himself with, such as might well make the heart recoil with horror.

In the following verses, 29 to 32, three things are seen:

1. Nine phases or developments of human sin (verse 29);
2. The kind of people it makes (verses 29 to 31); and
3. The fearful human conspiracy or agreement of wickedness of man against God (verse 32).

HAD God's wrath already been revealed?

The Cross which delivers a believer from the wrath to come. God used the law to prove man's enmity against Him.

- a. It worked wrath.
- b. It caused the offense to abound.
- c. It developed "the motions of sins."
- d. It brought death.
- e. It was the strength of sin.
- f. It deprived the sinner of all power.
- g. It slew him.
- h. It was condemnation.
- i. It cursed all who had to do with it. "*As many as are of the works of the law are under the curse.*" And all this, not because of any defect in the law, but because of man's total inability to keep it.

Remember in verse 28

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

Man to God as worthy of knowing.

God recognizes man as capable of knowing God but didn't want to know Him.

God says "Now I will turn you over" to your depraved mind.

Is the Word here talking about the abuse of the natural desires of man?

There are natural and normal appetites of the body. God is not speaking of these natural appetites, or even of the abuse of these. He is describing that state of **unnatural** appetites in which all normal instincts are left behind. And it is significant, that, as originally woman took the lead in sin, so here!

²⁹ **being filled** with all **unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil;**
full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

The first 4 go together as **being filled** with

1. All **Unrighteousness**, characterized by distaste for truth.
2. All **Wickedness**, sinister, vile, name given to Satan the evil one. The kind of evil that solicits others.
3. All **Greed**, root the desire for more. More than one's due. The act of overreaching by selfish tricks.
4. All **Evil**, desires to injure anyone who would inconvenience me.

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

Full of envy- hate that rises from the heart and directed towards one who is above us, one who is what we are not, one who possesses what we do not have or cannot have. One who's path we do not choose to follow.

Matt 27:18. Pilate saw and knew. With pure envy the Jews regards Jesus.

Full of murder- “phnonu” slaughter

Strife- discourse, contention to beat down 1 Cor. 3:3 same word.

Corinthians 3:3 (NASB) ***3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and **strife** among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like **mere men**?***

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

Deceit – dolos - all fish bait always has a hook in it. Phone calls for free stuff.

Malice - malignity, bad character, taking all things in an evil sense. The human heart loves to hear of failure. Build them up to tear them down.

They are gossips, Greek word for hissing. Whisperers. A snake. Secret.

*³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,
inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

Slanderers - backbiters openly

Haters of God - one word, to feel and to show hatred

Insolent - loving injurious insults openly

Arrogant - loving to shine over others

Boastful - braggarts

Inventors of evil - Jer. 19:5 Men come up with ideas that even God didn't. Man is better than God in thinking of evil.

*³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,
inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful*

These 5 words start with an A

Disobedient to parents

Without understanding, moral understanding, senseless

Untrustworthy, bound by no covenant, law or principle. Innate in man. A Contract assumes that man is not going to live up to his agreements.

Unloving, without kindred feelings, without natural or family affections

Unmerciful, We have a merciful God Who has to deal with unmerciful man.

³² Knew the ordinances of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death. They not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. Applaud.

Romans 1:32 (NLT2)

³² They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Romans 1:32 (WEY)

³² In short, though knowing full well the sentence which God pronounces against actions such as theirs, as things which deserve death, they not only practice them, but even encourage and applaud others who do them.

