

Book of Romans

Chapter 1

(18-31)

In the movie “Wrath of the titans” the gods just simply last out, people will die and this is what the god’s wrath could be like human wrath. This is a true story actually from the Munich tragedy of the small Israeli team, 11 would actually be killed by Palestinian terrorist and they actually sent the Mossad to actually assess every single one of the terrorist who did that and they called the team, “Operation Wrath of God”. This means wrath of God is vengeance. Do you see all of these ideas of wrath of God? So even the picture of God drawn by Michael Angelo points at you and he is very-very angry. There is a problem with wrath of God and some people C.H. Dodd does not like to talk about the wrath of God so what they do is they say God’s wrath is actually impersonal process of cause and effect in the universe, it is nothing personal. It is like you put your hand in a candle, yet get burnt up. Is the candle bad? No you put your hand there and it will get burnt up. So he says it is impersonal force, is like the force of gravity as it were. Okay, Marcion one of the early heretics in the second century AD when he was collecting the books of the bible to form his own bible he actually omitted all the Old Testament. Why? Because Old Testament talks about the wrath of the God, people got killed, the Canaanites being wiped out by Israel. He actually took this verse and when he translated it he omitted “of God”, that means the wrath was revealed against people. He did not even put “of God”, because you cannot put God with wrath. It is very shameful as it were. Arthur Pink describes the wrath of God is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin. So it is because God is holy probably His holiness comes His righteousness and from His righteousness you have this activity against sin. So wrath is a reaction of God against sin. So you have got wrath which is due to holiness, righteousness and it is because of His righteousness and His love that we actually have wrath. Radovan Karadzic was actually convicted and sentenced for 40 years in jail. Imagine if you have a guy like him and I went to tell a story when I was having my lunch usually in the hospital same row, there is an Bosnian Serb, he was a Muslim and actually runs a restaurant and he was actually in Bosnia at that time this guy was butchering people and he actually told the story of mass graves. His relatives being put to prison, so you mention anything about the Serbs he would be very angry, is like always spitting at you. The issue is wrath is not necessarily wrong. If you say it is very embarrassing for God to be angry, imagine if someone took your daughter and proceeded to take her away, rape her, torture her, so a godly person will say okay God will deal with it or are you going to be very pissed off. Will you be angry? The anger is a righteous anger. If you are not righteous, he is torturing your daughter, you say it is okay torture her some more. That means you are not righteous. Okay right wrath or anger stems from the pure stream of righteousness. If you are righteous you will have wrath because it is a flip side, because you go against God, you go against the sin, there will be wrath. It is a reflex built in. So not only it is related to our holiness, wrath is also related to love. Imagine you are married. Why is it that wives are always angry at husband, not angry at anyone else. It is because anger is also a reflex of love. Because God so loved so. Have you ever seen your son and he takes all that you have given him, all the gifts, all the blessings that you have given him and he pisses it away, gets drunks, and wraps his car around the telephone pole. You will get very angry, why because you

love him and you went the best for him and he is actually wrapping himself around the telephone pole. And when God looks at us and he sees us with the eyes of love and we are doing that to ourselves there is coming up within His body, within this person there is also wrath. The wrath comes out of His love and also comes out of His righteousness.

So in Hebrews 13 it is described as offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Psalm 7 says

11 God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

**12 If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword;
he has bent and readied his bow;**

God is a righteous and loving God there will be wrath.

Psalm 5

**4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.**

**5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.**

**6 You destroy those who speak lies;
the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

So the wrath of God seen in the Old Testament. The plagues in Egypt were all manifestation of God's wrath because why did punish the Egyptian? They were torturing the Israelites for many-many years. So God acts Jesus describes

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.”

He described himself destruction of Evil people. They always say Jesus is always taking about love. He died on the cross because of love. Old Testament God is evil, full of vengeance and anger. This is a description of Jesus Christ in the revelations 14:4

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

Revelation 14:19

19 So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

This is horrible. This is Jesus Christ riding on the horse and tells the angels to do this and all the men and women who are destined for destruction are put in the winepress. So wrath is a very biblical idea, even if you talk to your friends do not be afraid to talk about the wrath of God, the wrath of God is real. If you do not have the wrath of God then there will be no judgment. Imagine you have cheated all your friends and your relatives and then on your death bed you say sorry, just to make right and you go to heaven. God does not work like this way. There will be wrath of God.

We actually have two stages of wrath of God, one is the foretaste and the other one is the final judgment. Final judgment is the one described by Jesus in revelations where people are put inside, the grapes are being harvested and they being squished and all the blood comes out and there is horrible description of judgment. That is the final judgment but there is a current judgment because this revealed is a present tense. That means God's judgement is being revealed right now, is being played out. So there is actually the sentence of condemnation. The sentence of condemnation is the history of the world. If you look at the world today, you see Donald Trump is winning the presidential election, ISIS is there, and that is all judgment. You do not realize that we are now being judged and our judgment now is a little bit of a foretaste of what is really to come. So we are under judgment. Let me show you how we are in judgment. The reason for the wrath. The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. There are two things, ungodliness which is basically a refusal to worship God. It is an assault on the majesty of God. Here you have a God of the universe who creates everything including every molecule that is resident in your body, every breath that you take comes from him and you refuse to acknowledge. It is like walk in your parents' house and you do not even say hello, you do not even look at them and spit on the floor. That is what it is. The other one is unrighteousness which means the violation of God's just order, which means if God creates you therefore you have to live in a certain way. So therefore unrighteousness is living according to your own way rather than God's way, so you have unrighteousness and ungodliness and ungodliness leads to unrighteousness. If you do not respect God, if you do not honour him, you do not worship him, so therefore why should you live according to his laws? So ungodliness always leads to unrighteousness. Okay unrighteousness will lead you to do two things, suppression of the truth and the refusal to submit to God. So what is the truth he is talking about, so what can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them 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 they are saying that the truth about God is very obvious. It is obvious to every single person in the world and every person who does not believe is actually suppressing the truth, so they are without excuse. We are talking about not special revelation. In theological terms we are talking about general revelation that mean when you stand outside and see the sun and the moon and you gaze at the following star that is enough to tell you there is a God, but is not enough to tell you who that God is, precisely what Jesus Christ, how he died for your sin. So that is called special revelation which you need to share the gospel with. But general revelation leaves man without any excuse. In fact if you look back in the past famous Roman, Marcus Julius Caesar when one examines the earth and the heavens one have to say some God of higher power is responsible for such a magnificent intricately designed and enormous structure. Romans famous orator, Cicero, Plato, Aristotle, all of them believe in some higher power in God. Today we have a rampant secularism which is very-very stupid. They believe life comes out of

nothing and how stupid can you be. Fred Hoyle, famous British astronomer noted for his theory on Stellar Nucleosynthesis and what he does, he has actually calculated, if you going to believe in evolution to create everything in the world, the chances of that happening would be the same thing as watching a typhoon come into your house and rearrange your whole house, so that it comes out and you have a Boeing 474. Now how likely is that going to happen? How likely is this going to happen? May be the typhoon hit one and not the other. What about organic life. The chance of organic life coming together, this organic life just produce a protein molecule itself is going to take 20 amino acids and from then you create 2000 enzymes all at a particular instance and to do that the chance of that happening is $1 \times 10^{40,000}$. It is absolutely unlikely. In fact if you actually look at program "Life After People". This looks at what happens to your buildings and everything else if you do not live there, so imagine you do not live there and you go away and thousands of years later your capital will look like this. An evolution is saying that if you leave it for 1000 and 1000 of years you will build things up, it is absolutely opposite.

21 Although they knew God they did not honour him God or give thanks to him.

So the whole issue is that it is obvious there is God and the people do not search for him and not honour him, so therefore you got a refusal to submit to God, so therefore when they actually sin in the Garden of Eden it is basically a refusal to accept God as God. They wanted to determine what is right and wrong, so we live in our own worlds, we do not submit to God, we do not acknowledge him. That is the same kind of sin. So what is the consequence of that sin? The consequence of that sin is judgment.

Although they knew God they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but. So these are the consequences. We expect that if we do not honour God swift retribution. I remember some time ago when we are young there are some people that say I will prove to you that there is no God, so a friend of mine jumped up and he stood up on the chair and screamed to God bad words and saying if there is a God then let Him punish me. We expect God to strike you straightway or swallow you by a whale, but the fact that we do not why because of God's long suffering endurance and patience. What does he do instead? While the consequences,

but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

So they became stupid as the bible says. After becoming a fool people start worshipping the wrong things, this is idolatry. The things that are really beneath you, you start to worship. So let's look at the number one fool here. Hawkins describes that there is no God and this is the same guy that years ago did his Ph.D. and discovered there is a beginning which implies a God then later on he changed his mind. Because there is a law such as gravity the universe can and will create itself from nothing. He writes, "Spontaneous creation is the reason that there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist." We know something cannot exist unless there is a cause, all over the world we see this phenomenon but when it goes

back to the beginning, something exist because of nothing, and he changes the rules. Then later on he wrote in the book called Grand Design in 2010. Physics creates the universe. Physics means the laws of physics.

There is another theoretical physicist, Lawrence Krauss. He said, "Surely 'nothing' is every bit as physical as 'something,' especially if it is to be defined as the 'absence of something.'"

This guy is searching that nothing is every bit as physical as something especially if it is defined as the absence of something. It is really doing acrobatics in order to prove there is no God. G.K. Chesterton gives this quote "It is absurd for the Evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything."

So therefore we have got a lot of people lined up, although they knew God they did not honour him or give him thanks, they became futile in their thinking, foolish hearts, became darkened, claiming to be wise they became fools. It is the world that is to be called fools, not the Christians. You go to world they think they are very smart. You go to a scientific field, if you talk about God they will laugh at you, they laugh at you because they are stupid.

Bertram Russell says, "We have no choice but to build our lives upon the firm foundation of unyielding despair". Because there is nothing so we have to build our lives on the firm foundation of unyielding despair.

Albert Camus says, "We should honestly recognize life's absurdity and then live in love for one another".

Therefore the second consequence is idolatry. So God gave them up. The word is very important. God gave them up. What is this? Dodd says it is a natural process, you cannot blame God. Some other people thinks that deliberate action God made and then they worship idols. You cannot say God made them, because James say when no one can say I am being tempted by God, God cannot be tempted with evil, he himself tempts no one. So that is not likely. This is Deuteronomy, but the lord your God will hand them over to you and throw them to the great confusion until they are destroyed. So when God says hands you over, give you over is judgment, it is like holding onto a boat and there is a big torrent of whitewater rapids in a particular direction. God holds onto it, not only lets go but give it a good push. That is judgment he lets go. Do you think why would He give them up? Is it for them to repent but the fact is Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing and they will return to Lord and He will listen to their pleas of mercy and heal them. Does He judge people in order for them to come back. Yes He does, that is His purpose but in real life most people do not repent. Even though God allows you to go on and get punished, very-very few people actually turn back, so they chose judgment. If you look at the entire passage you will see things like exchange, gave them up, exchange, gave them up. There is a pattern. So that the judgment of God is God gives you up and then when you give up you exchange. You have got suppression of truth, refusal to submit to God then become stupid, I worship idols and you become immoral. So idol worship will be dealt with inside your discussion groups, because we are all idol worshippers. Every one of us have idols attached into our DNAs.

Going through the book of Romans we will slowly go through the process of how to get out under these idols. It is so easy when we become Christian, how many of you call the pastor to your house to whack the idol? The idols are inside us, we have to whack inside. That is the difficult part. So now in morality he chooses a particular kind of immorality and I will tell you why.

Romans 1:

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

This passage talks about homosexuals but the gays deny it. What does Paul mean by saying against nature, some says we were cultural bias, Paul is biased. He is condemning homosexual acts that occur together with idolatry and then there are some people that will say there are constitutional homosexual, mean these people are naturally homosexual. So when they have sex with another man it is okay because God made them like that. So how it can be wrong? When Paul tells exchange unnatural does not apply to them because they are naturally homosexuals. So there are three main arguments. Now the first one is a bit off because there have been homosexuals even during that time, so you cannot use that argument. The argument that most comes out is that even you have homosexual acts together with idolatry that is wrong. Because the whole passage of idolatry and then become homosexual. So therefore when you go to a temple and you worship other gods and you have sex with the priest man or the woman that is wrong, so therefore if we take this out and you are homosexual on your own at home and not with idolatry it means you are not sinner. Now this is likely theory but if you look at the passage not only that the passage is about idolatry and if we look in verses 29, 31, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, gossips, slanderer and haters of God. They say if you do idolatry together with this, it is a sin. So if you take this out on its own, it is not a sin. So you can murder, you can have deceit, you can slap people, it is not sin because it is not associated with idolatry. So the logic of this from homosexual is very wrong.

2. Exchange natural relations with those who are contrary to natural. So it interprets natural relations and natural desire. Which means I am born gay. If I am a born gay Paul does not apply to me because this is a natural desire, unnatural desire. If I am born liking boy and boy it is correct, it is natural for me. So the trouble is in science, there is very little evidence in science there are naturally born gays. They think the gay chromosome is the chromosome eight but the trouble is that 10% of gay men have it versus 3% in general population but that is the only strong evidence they have. There is no other evidence. So it is very difficult to say that you are actually born gay. The other one is that if you are born gay, natural desire is man and man and then suddenly the girl comes and then when you see the girl, you want to be with her and then you desire the man but you have sex with the girl. So the homosexuals are saying this is what Paul is talking about. Does it seem logical? You look at the man you get an erection, you look at a woman no erection but you can have sex with her. How? When I was training in medical

school we use to treat gays. You know how you treat gays in those days. You put a strain gauge on the penis and then you connect it to the electrical device and then show picture of a naked man and naked woman. Nothing happens to them by looking at the naked woman, but looking at naked man the erection comes and when it comes the electric shock comes. So that is how we train man not to be homosexual in those days. That was in 1980s. If we were to put a homosexual on this machine you put all those tube and then you parade a naked man in front of him he gets a shock, you put a naked woman do you think they will get a shock? No their desire is there. So how can you have sex with this woman when you cannot even have an erection? So therefore the homosexual argument is rather very-very poor. If we look at the verse carefully, woman exchange natural relations that means contrary to the basic order of nature and the word is relation. The word relation in Greek is called "krisis", the state of being used, employed, sexual intercourse, it talks about the function. It is not talking about desire. The homosexual interpret it as desire. They are not talking about desire, they are talking about exchange natural function which means penis into vagina that is called natural function. So if you translate this woman exchanged natural function, natural sex those with contrary to nature, man gave up natural function with woman and were consumed with passion for one another, same thing for man. So therefore is normal desire, normal function. So this is abnormal desire but unnatural function. So Paul is against unnatural function. You may desire all sorts of people but you did not commit to act, Paul is not against that. Paul is against unnatural function. Why pick on homosexual? Paul is drawing parallels, very clever the way he writes. It is very natural because God made man, man honors God. It is very natural that woman and man share desire and they love and have sex with each other. It is very abnormal for man to worship creature lower than himself, very abnormal because you go one step lower. So same thing, instead of loving and having sex with opposite sex they have the same one. So it also goes against nature. So these two are abnormal. When the whole scheme of creation is turn on his head these things happen and he draws it out to use it as a paradigm until it fits on your mind very-very clearly. That is why he did not pick on stealing; he did not pick on plagiarizing. He picked homosexuality to prove his point that is very-very abnormal. When you do unnatural? The most unnatural thing in the world is to worship something else other than God.

Since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debase mind to do what they are not to be done. So it did feel fit to acknowledge God. God gave them up to a useless mind. The world today that we are living in is actually a judgment of God for us too. The type of leaders we get and our surroundings are a judge to us for our doings.

The final stage of how people change suppressing the truth, becoming stupid, idol worshipers, homosexual, immoral and all the bad behaviour, the final stage is although they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do that but get approval for those who practice them. They call black white and white black. It is total opposite and we see this in the world today. The total depravity of man says that you are so bad, you are so far off from God, there is no way. God's righteous is so high up that you will never get up there until you get onto the Gospel Airlines.