

Series on Romans for Airdrie Baptist Church, Autumn 2021

Session 2 Romans 1:18-3:20

God's Righteousness and Man's Condemnation

In this section Paul proposes that all men, regardless of being Gentile or Jew, share the same condition, sinful fallenness. Both Jew and Greek will eventually suffer the judgment that comes from sin.

The Jews do enjoy a benefit, however. They are the beneficiaries of God's oracles. God spoke through the prophets to the Jews, and while most did not listen and are doomed, a few obeyed and were saved. Also through the Jews came the revelation of God's Law. Here Paul immediately and definitively addresses the issue of legal works and redemption. Works of the Law will never justify. The Law can only serve to convict.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| A. Sinful Man Suppresses the Truth about God's Power | 1:18-25 |
| 1. God is always angry at the lies of unrighteousness, i.e.: | 1:18 |
| 2. The truth about God is evident in creation, but: | 1:19-20 |
| 3. Mankind thought it better to worship creatures instead of the Creator | 1:21-25 |
|
B. So, God Relinquishes Man to Wallow in His Depravity |
1:26-32 |
| 1. God relinquished them to go against nature – <i>physis</i> | 1:26-27 |
| 2. God relinquished them to go against understanding – <i>epignosis</i> | 1:28 |
| 3. And all manner of wickedness followed | 1:29-32 |
|
C. God Shows No Partiality in Dealing with Man's Sin |
2:1-29 |
| 1. Man judges man hypocritically | 2:1-4 |
| 2. God judges man without regard for Jew or Gentile | 2:5-16 |
| 3. A Jew who breaks the Law is same as a sinning Gentile | 2:17-29 |
|
D. The Jews Enjoy a Benefit, but Not a Moral Advantage |
3:1-20 |
| 1. The benefit is that God revealed His Law to them directly | 3:1-2 |
| 2. God's revealed Law did not ensure obedience to it | 3:3-18 |
| 3. Knowledge <i>of the Law</i> implies judgment <i>by the Law</i> | 3:19-20 |