

# The Way

## Maturity of the Church

### Lesson 18: God Condemns All Who Reject His Witness Through Creation

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Review (Where We've Been)

##### ***Charting Paul's Teaching Through Romans...***

- **Condemnation** - You are far from God (Romans 1-3)
- **Justification** - You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5)
- **Sanctification** - You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8)
- **Restoration** - You are restored to God (Romans 9-11)
- **Transformation** - You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16)

#### BIG Idea

Today we will begin by looking at the depths of man's sin and the resulting wrath of God on it.

We'll discover that **sin cannot go unpunished**. Why? God is just and must punish sin, as He said He would.

#### Information (What You Need to Know)

##### ***The Depths of God's Condemnation...***

- **God has revealed His wrath against sin**

**Romans 1:18 (ESV)** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

##### ***Biblical Examples Demonstrating God's Wrath on Man's Sin...***

- ✓ **Adam and Eve**

**Genesis 2:16 (ESV)** And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- They were the first humans, and the first to sin against God
- God cursed the earth and put them out of the garden He created for them
- Since then, there has been sickness, sorrow, and death in the world
- Death entered the world because of man's disobedience to God

**Romans 5:12 (ESV)** ...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...

✓ **The People of Noah's Day**

**Genesis 6:5 (ESV)** The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. **7** So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

✓ **Sodom and Gomorrah**

**Genesis 18:20 (ESV)** Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, **21** I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

✓ **Pharaoh and the Egyptians**

*"God demonstrated His wrath against Pharaoh's rebellion and punished the Egyptians for refusing to release the Israelites." – Firm Foundations*

✓ **Giving of the Mosaic Law**

*"God displayed His wrath against sin when giving His Law to Israel at Mount Sinai. The whole mountain was ablaze with fire, covered with thick smoke/darkness, and it shook violently. God did this to demonstrate to the Israelites His hatred and wrath against sin." – Firm Foundations*

✓ **Punishment of God's Son on the cross for our sins.**

**1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh...

▪ **Man has deliberately rejected God and the truth**

✓ **Creation shows that God exists**

**Psalms 19:1 (NLT)** The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. **2** Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. **3** They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

✓ **People reject God as Creator, even though they see His attributes in creation**

**Romans 1:19 (ESV)** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** 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.

*"Men cannot charge God with hiding himself from them and thus excuse their irreligion and their immorality." – Richard Lenski*

- **Man has formed his own ideas about God**

- ✓ The heart of man has been darkened by sin

- Romans 1:21 (ESV)** 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.

- ✓ Man rejected God in exchange for constructing a god of his own choosing

- Romans 1:22 (ESV)** 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.

### Application (What You Need To Do):

***God allows mankind to become slaves to the evil they choose...***

- **They do whatever their heart desires** (they are their own god)

- Romans 1:24 (NLT)** So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. **25** They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

- **They engage in whatever sexual sin they desire** (they choose their truth)

- Romans 1:26 (NLT)** That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. **27** And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

- **They demonstrate an unrepentant and corrupt lifestyle** (it's their character)

- Romans 1:28 (NLT)** Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. **29** Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. **30** They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent [*rude or lack of respect*], proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. **31** They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.

The concluding thought on our wicked condition and guilt before God...

**Romans 1:32 (NLT)** 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.