

What Happens When We Do Not Worship God? (Romans 1:14-32)

The Gospel of Salvation (Romans 1:14-17)

¹⁴ I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. ¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, [I am] ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power of God** to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Why the Need for the Gospel of Salvation? (Romans 1:18-20)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

1. *Because God is judging the irreverent and the unrighteous (18a)*
2. *Because men know the truth and suppress it (18b)*
3. *Because men know of God, but refuse to acknowledge Him as God (19)*
4. *Because God's divine power and deity are obvious from creation (20a)*
5. *Because men have no excuse (20b)*

Why Is God So Severe? (Romans 1:21-23)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

1. *Because men rejected their proper worship of God (21a)*
 - a. *As God ("they did not glorify Him as God")*
 - b. *As Good ("nor were thankful")*
2. *Because of men's resultant folly (21b-23)*
 - a. *If you reject the obvious, there is nothing left but futility (21b)*
 - b. *If you reject the light, there is nothing left but darkness (21c)*
 - c. *If you reject true wisdom, there is nothing left but foolishness (22a)*
3. *Because men embraced improper worship (23)*
 - a. *They rejected God "as is"*
 - b. *They redefined God "as desired"*

God's Responses to Those that Refuse to Worship Him as God

Response of God #1: Unrestrained Sensuality – Release of the Depraved Heart (Romans 1:24-25)

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Response of God #2: Perverted Sexuality – Removal of Gender Distinction (Romans 1:26-27)

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Response of God #3: Destroyed Sensibility – Removal of Mental Discernment (Romans 1:28-32)

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Are you saved?

Are you acknowledging God for Who He is?

Are you worshipping the Creator, or something that He has created?

Do you yield to God as your Creator, the One Who made you, owns you, and to Whom you are to worship?

Do any of these levels describe you?

Though this seems to deal with the unsaved (deals only with God as Creator, not as Savior), it is apparent that believers can follow the same path of destruction

(Luke 8; Col 3; Rom 6; 1 Tim 1; 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Cor 2-3; etc.).

God Deserves a Proper Response

God Does Not Allow Rejection of Him to Go Unrequited – there are consequences to our rebellion

- **Celebrities:** spiritual leaders, athletes, musicians, millionaires, family members, self?
- **Possessions:** pursuit of money, cars, stereos, houses, things that occupy your time
- **Ambitions:**
- **Pleasures:**
- **Nature:** animals, the physical world and its beauty, etc.

Worship God, or Wallow in Sin

Rejecting God Has Its Consequences

Rejecting God Leads Us Further Into Sin and Its Consequences

These people know some things about God

These people do not properly acknowledge (worship & serve) God

These people actually suppress what they know, and behave oppositely

These people exchange something true and holy for something false and unholy

These people are turned over to their sinful worship and its results by God

Worship Is Our Proper Response To God As Our Creator (and as Saved, as our Savior and Lord)

Failure to Worship God as God Is Not Due to a Lack of Information

- They suppress it
- Everyone has it
- It is obvious information in creation

Failure to Worship God as God Is Not Accidental

- Changing and Exchanging

When We Do Not Acknowledge God as God, God Does Not Sit By and Do Nothing About It

He Allows People to Continue the Course of Destruction Sin Brings

He Actively Turns Them Over