

## **PPI Murder, evil and disobeying your parents.**

### **1. Pp2 God is angry because they can't see it**

*Pp3 RO 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,<sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

This passage is all about sin. It is a passage that includes everyone. Remember over the past two weeks we have mentioned Jews and gentiles, greeks and non greeks and wise and foolish. All inclusive. Here Paul puts the true spin on that inclusiveness. He starts by pointing out a tough concept. God's existence can be recognised from "what has been made". God is angry because people can't see it. Sorry if you have a problem with God being angry. Some would say He doesn't get angry, He is totally constant in His emotion--even that He is without emotion. The Jews don't seem to have a problem with God's wrath being assigned to His displeasure or anger. Later theologians seem to place it in the too hard basket. Anyway- big concept for another day.

God's wrath is probably best seen as God's judgment in action. And here God's displeasure is being revealed. God's will is being revealed, right throughout this Letter by Paul. Both the positives of salvation and the negatives of God's dealing with sinners. Instead of plunging at once into an exposition of the Gospel, Paul launches into a lengthy exposure of human sinfulness. This is sound procedure, for until people are persuaded of their lost condition they are not likely to be concerned about deliverance. So Paul undertakes to demonstrate in the human situation a grievous lack of the righteousness God requires.

This wrath of God is being revealed "from heaven." This phrase as used in the Gospels means "from God."

They "suppress the truth by their wickedness." That is, whenever the truth about God (cf. v. 25) starts to assert itself and makes them feel guilty, they suppress it--either by further immoralities or by denial. Suppression of the truth implies a knowledge of the truth, MMM but how do they know. They should be able to see it. Where? All around. Can we see God's presence in His works. Yes, and we recognise it. But others refuse to, they suppress the urge to credit the work to God.

### **2. PP4 God takes our decisions seriously.**

*PP5 RO 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.<sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

The amazing part is – PP6 God allows people to act foolishly. God will let us ignore Him if we choose. PP7 God takes our decisions seriously. He will let us sin. He will respect our decisions to do the wrong thing. God will even let us worship the wrong thing. Our choice.

The thing is He will have to deal with it with the integrity of God. That is where the wrath part comes in. PP8 God won't have anything to do with you if you choose not to have anything to do with Him. He must expel you from His relational presence.

Notice it says “Although they knew God”.

Do you think all people can recognise God's existence? Do you think your non christian friends recognise that God is even if they don't know about the bibles understanding about Him? Probably you think. Well the bible tells us that they really can't ignore Him. His works show us He exists. Yet God respects us so much that He allows us to have a decision making process and decide how to relate to Him.

Look at this next bit

### **3. PP9 Choose your own religion – the post modern interactive game.**

***Pp10<sup>RO 1:24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.***

It's like a post modern choose your own religion, a new interactive game. Make your religion to suit yourself. This post modern religion stuff is not new. It is been around for years. Religions that relate to nature, that relate to the persons inner self, relate to the ultimate creation. Nothing new. The frustration for Paul is that they miss the point. They worship things that God created. Why worship something second rate? Worship the best. Wouldn't you want the best God you could have why worship something made by another God. It doesn't make sense to Paul, and it doesn't make sense now, unless you don't want what God offers.

### **4. PP11 Sin is in.**

***PP12<sup>RO 1:26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.***

Much has been said about this passage. This is one of the verses in Scripture used to make solid accusations of sinfulness against homosexuality, against same sex marriage etc. Yes, it is pretty blunt here – it's a sin. I don't think we can ignore that biblically. Our society and how many christians view it may vary. Our reaction to it may vary but it is a sin. God treats it as such.

This is the reason I won't marry same sex couples. For me to marry them is to say I agree with their continuing in sin. That isn't fair, other people sin too. And I have declined to marry some people because of their lifestyle.

One thing we need to be really careful about here is apportioning a level of blame or accusation without providing a level of support and opportunity for repentance. What I mean by that is if we say that these sins are wrong, and we probably mostly agree that they are, then we have to provide education, opportunity of repentance, ongoing support and counselling and be accepting of repentance including offering our agreement with God's forgiveness.

We can not just point out the sin and run away from it. The more we identify it as sin, the more responsible we become to provide appropriate assistance and opportunity for drawing closer to God.

Alongside this: Be careful where you throw the stones, look at the next bit of the passage.

But we do need to be really careful about making this issue bigger than Ben Hur. Paul goes on to list sins that separate from God.

But notice what Paul says. **Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts.** They made the choice, God let them make that choice. It's like God takes their decisions seriously. So seriously that He will allow people make a bad decision. If He respects that we need to also. This is a tough one.

Is the same sex marriage in this category that God will hand them over, so will He hand over our nation to the decision making process. I'll let you think on that.

What will be **due penalty for their perversion?**

Look how Paul expounds that concept.

PP13 <sup>RO 1:28</sup> **Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.**

Again God **he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.**

MMM interesting isn't it. I think you get the point. They have made a choice.

Now we will have to perhaps live with their choice, the reality is we are now starting to become a church culture within a pagan world just like the New Testament times.

**But look where Paul goes next!!**

Due penalty for their perversion. What is that? Well here is the spin out, exactly the same as any other sin. Yep these sins of sex, adultery or homosexual/ lesbian sex have the same penalty as any sin.

PP Sin separates from God.

<sup>29</sup> **They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them**

Let's look at these sins.

Wickedness, yep that's a sin, evil, yeh, greed, most definitely, depravity. Hang on, we don't say it like that today. How about, people who do horrible things, people who rip people off, sickos who murder and rape. Yep they are sinners.

Let's continue with the list.

PP14 Full of envy, mmm sometimes I get envious,

PP15 Murder, naw don't do that,

PP16 Strife, I can cause some of that sometimes.

PP17 Deceit,mmm

Pp18 Malice, ooo

PP19 Gossips, oh dear I like a bit of juicy gossip,

PP20 Slander, oo dear this is getting a bit close to home

PP21 Insolent, arrogant and boastful, hey is he describing me here.

PP22 Disobey parents

PP23 Senseless

PP24 Faithless,

PP25 Heartless

PP26 Ruthless

PP27 My goodness this list is designed to say that everyone is a sinner.

Yep, that's exactly the idea.

PP28 The universality of sin. All sin, all has the same consequences. No grades of sin, it is just sin.

Paul finishes it off as saying not only those who do it, but those who let others continue to sin. Wow. PP 29 That includes me, you, them, us, the lot.

Why does Paul do this? To point out our need for what Jesus did. He died and rose again to deal with this issue. He died to deal with it for everyone. Allowing Jesus to deal with it for us as individuals, personally – Well God respects us enough to allow us to respond. However we do that.

Let's respond – tell God we are sorry for the sin we do and then worship Him through the next few songs.