

## Lesson 2: Romans 1:18-3:20

### **Condemnation: Mankind Without the Righteousness of God**

Question: “Is the world of mankind lost?”

Answer: “All the world is guilty before God” (3:19)

The Gospel is the offer of a gift of righteousness from God to a world in rebellion and sin. God is “angry or has wrath” (1:18) continuously from the Garden of Eden to our day in response to our sin.

Divine anger is not like human anger that is often irrational, sinful, and hurtful. God’s “wrath/anger” is His righteous response towards that which is against Him and His will for humanity.

Sins will be named. Over thirty sins will be mentioned. In our day, tolerance keeps us from calling anything sin lest we are accused of being judgmental. But to call an activity what God calls it is not being self-righteous or to make ourselves the judge, we are only calling it what God calls it.

God’s Word is the divine dictionary for us. Whatever God calls something or defines an attitude or act we can call it. God makes the judgment.

#### **I. The Pagan Gentile World before God (1:18-32).**

A. They have chosen to be IGNORANT OF GOD!  
Vs. 18-22, 28

B. They have chosen IDOLATRY: vs. 22-23, 25

C. They have chosen unnatural IMMORALITY! 24-26

D. They have chosen INIQUITY! 28-32

As the Apostle Paul continues to present the case of God against a sinful humanity he proceeds to tell us by what standards God will judge sinners at the White Throne Judgment in the final day: Revelation 20:11-15.

**II. The Standards for Judging the Self-Righteous and the Religious. (Jewish problem in 2:17-29).**

A. The standards of divine judgment:

1. According to knowledge. V. 1
2. According to truth: vs. 2-3
3. According to accumulated guilt: 4-5
4. According to works: 6-10
5. According to impartiality: 11-15
6. According to the secrets of the heart/motives: 16

B. The Religious Jew will be judged. 2:17-3:8

1. They failed to practice the law God gave: 17-24

2. They trusted in externals (circumcision) while disobeying the law: 2 5-27
3. A true Jew has had a work done in their heart: 28-29

The whole world is shown to be guilty before God. By guilt we mean they are under a liability to pay for their sins against a holy God. Jesus said in John 3:36, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”

Until the sinner looks to Jesus and puts his faith in the good news that Jesus Christ has died for our sins and been raised from the dead to save those who believe we are without Christ and without hope.

### **III. The Charges Against the Whole World! 3:10-20**

#### A. The Charges brought by God against the world

1. There is none righteous. 10
2. There is none who understands. 11
3. There is none who seek God. 11
4. All have abandoned God. 12
5. All have become useless. 12

6. There is none who does good. 12
7. Their throat is like an open grave: 13
8. The venom of asps is under their lips: 13
9. The tongue is full of deceit: 13
10. The mouth is full of cursing: 14
11. Their feet are swift to shed blood: 15
12. Destruction and misery are in their way: 16
13. The way of peace they have not known: 17
14. There is no fear of God before their eyes: 18

B. The Verdict. 19-20

1. God's righteous judgments shuts every mouth: 19
2. God's righteous judgment shows that no one is right before Him:: 20

3. God's law informs mankind that they are sinners: 20

Conclusion: Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can save us from our Perilous condition. The gospel has the power to save.

