

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE

Romans 1:18-23

Introduction:

- Have you ever used ignorance as an excuse?
 1. If you try it with a police officer – not e_____
 2. If you try it with God – not e_____
- Setting the context
 1. Verses 16,17 declares the good n_____
 2. Verses 18 shows why we need the good news - *For the w_____ of God is being revealed...* (the Greek connects verse 18 with verse 17 by a Greek particle often translated “for” – the NIV wrongly omits translating this word for the sake of readability).
 3. The righteousness of God is revealed in the g_____ but the wrath of God is revealed from h_____
 - a. It takes special revelation to experience f_____
 - b. It takes no revelation to experience w_____
- The wrath of God
 1. Is against _____ ungodliness and unrighteousness
 - a. Ungodliness literally means “no w_____”
 - b. Unrighteousness refers to a standard that falls s_____ of God’s standard (Rom 3:23).
 2. Is against the sin of only those who *suppress* (KJV – *hold*) the truth in unrighteousness.
 - a. The Greek pictures a person taking the truth, putting it in a box, closing the lid, and sitting on it so that they can continue in their sin.
 - b. Unbelievers experience God’s wrath in their s_____ (e.g. verse 24 – God gave them over to their sin)
- There are two reasons why ignorance about God is no excuse

The Knowledge about God is Dis_____ in God’s Creation (19,20)

- A paradox
 1. Definition - a statement that seems to c_____ itself, but after much thought makes sense.
 2. E.g. – A school with no rules has one rule: there are no rules.
 3. What is the paradox in verse 20? – God’s invisible characteristics can be clearly s_____
- What invisible characteristics of God are seen in creation according to verse 20?
 1. His eternal p_____ (what power it must have taken to create this orderly universe; to create life – was it a Big Bang or a Powerful God?)
 2. His d_____ nature is understood through what is made, created (All we see reflects a designer – symmetry, interdependency between animal and plant life, vastness in the telescope and the microscope, etc.)

The Knowledge about God is Dis_____ in Man’s Speculation (21-23)

- Verse 21 states that all of humanity k_____ God.
 1. Does NOT refer to a knowledge of f_____ (different Greek word – oida)
 2. Does refer to a knowledge of e_____ (Greek word ginosko) - Believer and unbeliever alike through creation experience God’s:
 - a. C_____
 - b. C_____

- c. P_____
- Instead of acknowledging God's revelation through creation, humanity relied on sp_____.
 - 1. Verse 22 – *professing to be wise they became fools*
 - a. Speculation draws conclusions without having all the f_____.
 - b. Speculation that ignores God's revelation always leads away from the t_____.
 - 2. Verse 23 – *they exchanged God's glory for an image*
 - a. Idol worship – giving divine power to something other than God
 - 1) Today's religions – worship of images and things
 - 2) Some religious people give power to a cross, a bible, a picture of Jesus, etc.
 - b. We must worship the C_____ not the created
 - Evolution is speculation that ignores God's revelation
 - 1. Darwin's studied life on the Galapagos Islands and saw how species a_____ to their environment.
 - a. Only finches with certain beaks could survive
 - b. Finches must have a common finch ancestor
 - c. Therefore all of life must descend from a common "life" ancestor – that is a big jump from adapting

Darwin ignored the revelation of God in Genesis that states that God created the variety of life forms and made them to reproduce after their k_____ (not into another kind) – 1:11,12 (plants); 1:20-25 (animal life); 1:27,28 (human life).
 - 2. Science has discovered that the chemical make-up of the human body and all of life are elements found in the e_____.

Naturalists will teach that this confirms evolution but ignore the revelation in Genesis that states that

 - ♦ God made man from the d_____ of the earth (2:7)
 - ♦ God produced animal life from the earth (1:24) - 3. Scientists have discovered a galaxy that is 13 billion light years away and so claim that this proves an old universe but they ignore God's revelation in Genesis.
 - a. Which came first: the chicken or the egg?
 - b. Which came first: light or the stars?
 - ♦ God created light on day _____ (Gen 1:3,4)
 - ♦ God created the heavenly bodies to hold that light on day _____ (Gen 1:14-16)
 - c. Did Adam look one day old on his first day of life? Neither did the universe look days old when it was created.

Conclusion:

- No one can claim ignorance as an excuse for their sin. God's revelation through:
 - 1. Creation reveals one C_____ - but it is not enough to save us from our sin only condemn us.
 - 2. The gospel reveals one S_____ - we must trust Jesus to save us from God's wrath
 - 3. The Bible reveals God's knowledge – I must rely on His revelation not man's speculation