



September 3, 2023

***Romans: Rooted in Jesus
Justice and Mercy***

Romans 1:18-25

For Discussion and Reflection

1. One of the struggles we have in life is that we see the evil and injustice in our world going unpunished. Paul says that the wrath of God is already being revealed as God removes restraint on sinners who have refused him (see especially verses 21, 24,25). Do you see that further degradation is judgment? Later in the letter he will reference another evidence of God's judgment, death (Romans 5:14). Death is an important reminder to us of God's justice. What impression does that make on you?
2. Paul says that the gospel reveals the powerful salvation of God, 1:16. But it also reveals God's wrath. What does the cross work of Christ tell us about God's justness? What does it say about the price of sin?
3. The wrath of God is revealed against mankind's ungodliness and unrighteousness. From the sermon, how do those two words differ? The thought is that one leads to the next: idolatry leads to immorality. How do we apply this principle to what we see in our culture? What about in what we see in our own lives?
4. Paul says that mankind uses unrighteousness (moral degradation) to further hold back the truth. Sproul says it's like holding down a huge spring, ready to explode. Think about the energy (mental, emotional, even physical) it takes to hold back the truth. What affect would that type of constant effort have on the human soul and body?
5. Paul says that God has been put on full display in his creation. Sproul imagines a man walking through a beautiful art gallery with a blindfold on. He doesn't see anything. But then he corrects us because the apostle says that the revelation of God is "clearly perceived," and, "although they knew God, they did not honor him..." Mankind is not blindfolded and the revelation of God in creation has penetrated their knowledge. How does this elevate the offensive of man's holding back the truth?
6. The result of God's revelation is that mankind is, as he says, "without excuse." (1:20) Paul is establishing God's justness in judging mankind. Read ahead to Romans 2:12-16. What does Paul say about those who don't know the law of God? Are they exempt from judgment?
7. Paul's teaching has a basic understanding of our ontology (how we were created). We were made to worship and cannot avoid worshipping something or someone. Our hearts are never a religious vacuum, see v23 and v25. How does that change your view of yourself and others?
8. What stood out to you today from the text? How has your thinking been affected? How does this text help you grow in the grace of God?