

## **The Righteous Wrath of God Against Sinners**

Romans 1:18-23

**Context:** Paul's introduction to Romans ends at 1:17, and he now begins the first main argument in Romans about human sin and guilt (1:18–3:20). He starts in Romans 1:18–32 with the effects of God's wrath against sin in the present.

### **To Incur the Righteous Wrath of God...**

#### **I. \_\_\_\_\_ the obvious truth about God (vs. 18-20)**

- A. Although the evidence from conscience (1:19; 2:14), creation (1:20), and God's Word is irrefutable, men choose to resist and oppose God's truth by holding fast to their sin (cf. Ps. 14:1; John 3:19, 20). (John MacArthur)
- B. The entire natural world bears witness to God through its beauty, complexity, design, and usefulness. No one should complain that God has left insufficient evidence of his existence and character; the fault is with those who reject the evidence. (ESV Study Bible)

#### **II. \_\_\_\_\_ showing honor and gratitude to God (vs. 21)**

- A. The root sin is the failure to value God above all things, so that he is not honored and praised as he should be. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. Mankind should acknowledge God's existence and power and then recognize his lordship and live in grateful obedience. (Daniel Doriani)

#### **III. \_\_\_\_\_ from worshiping God to worshiping idols (vs. 22-23)**

- A. In addition to the images housed in great temples, Roman families commonly kept representations of individual "house gods" in their homes. Mediterranean and Near Eastern pagan religion worshiped idols in the form of beasts, or in the likeness of mixed beast/human deities such as the ancient gods of Egypt. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. But Western people succumb to idols too. We bow not to objects of wood or stone, but to wealth, power, acceptance, significance, pleasure, fame, and peace. We hope these pursuits will reward our devotion to them. (Daniel Doriani)