

## **His Invisible Attributes** **Rom. 1:18-32**

*Thesis: To help us better understand the existence of God and the meaning of it in our lives.*

### **Introduction:**

- A. The entire passage is negative (“The wrath of God is revealed”).
- B. In this passage, God gives us a great warning about not living as if we truly believe that He exists.

### **I. God reveals Himself to us through His creation (1:18-20).**

#### **A. There should be no doubt in our minds that God exists.**

- 1. When we look at the world around us, we can see that there must be a greater power.
  - a. The human body has a specific design.
    - 1) Digestive system
    - 2) Respiratory system
    - 3) Bones and ligaments and tendons
  - b. This world also has a specific design to it.
    - 1) Planets rotate around the sun.
    - 2) There is spring, summer, winter, and fall.
    - 3) There is a place for the water and the dry land.
- 2. Because this world has a design, it therefore must have a Designer.
- 3. Paul is telling us that we should know that there is a God based on this world.

#### **B. Everything that we need to know about God is manifest in His creation of the world (1:19-20).**

- 1. The things of God are made known to us in His creation, which has been revealed to man.
- 2. Notice the series of questions that God asked Job (total of 74).
  - a. **Job 38:4-6** - Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. {5} Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? {6} To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone?
  - b. **Job 38:8-11** - Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; {9} When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; {10} When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; {11} When I said, “This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!”
  - c. **Job 38:12-13** - Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, {13} That it

might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

- d. **Job 38:16-18** - Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? {17} Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? {18} Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.
  - e. **Job 38:19-21** - Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, {20} That you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home? {21} Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of your days is great?
  - f. **Job 38:22** - Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail?
  - g. **Job 38:25-29** - Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt, {26} to cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, a wilderness in which there is no man; {27} To satisfy the desolate waste, and cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? {28} Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? {29} From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?
  - h. God will go on to ask Job about several different things.
    - 1) Mountain goats (**39:1-4**)
    - 2) Donkey (**39:5-8**)
    - 3) Wild ox (**39:9-12**)
    - 4) Ostrich (**39:13-18**)
    - 5) Horse (**39:19-25**)
    - 6) Hawk (**39:26-30**)
    - 7) The list could go on and on (**40:6-41:34**)
3. These are the questions that we should be asking those who do not claim to believe in God.

**C. There is no excuse to not seeing God in this world (1:20).**

- 1. When we consider these attributes of God that are seen in creation, we are without excuse in this world.
- 2. Not one of us could answer the questions that God asked Job.
- 3. When we look at this world and its design, we ought to easily understand that there is a Creator.
- 4. Someone once said, *“It takes more faith to be an atheist than it does to be a Christian.”*
  - a. This statement is very true.
  - b. It takes more faith to believe that this world came from nothing (living from non-living) than it does to believe that an eternal being created it.
  - c. To prove that God does not exist, one must show that something has been created from something that does not exist.

## II. Paul gives us a warning about not living as if there is a God (1:21-32).

### A. The warning that Paul gives is to those who know God, but do “not glorify Him as God” (1:21).

1. He had already said that they were without excuse in this world.
2. They should have known that God existed by the things that He had created.
3. Because they knew these things, they should have glorified Him as God; but they didn't.
4. We must understand that there is a difference between knowing something, and truly believing it.

### B. These kinds of people are known by the manner in which they live (1:22-32)

1. Notice how Paul describes these people who live as if there is no God (1:22-32).
2. We think of these kinds of people to be the worst individuals on the face of the earth.
3. However, we must remember that even those who profess to be Christians can live like this.
  - a. Remember what God says: “Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful” (1:21).
  - b. These are ones who know who God is, yet they refuse to live as if He exist.
  - c. If we were to be honest, we would say that there are some members of the body of Christ at Ridge Avenue that are living as if there is no God.
    - 1) Unrighteousness
    - 2) Sexual Immorality
    - 3) Covetousness
    - 4) Strife
    - 5) Whisperers and backbiters
    - 6) Proud
    - 7) Approve of those who practice evil things (1:32).
  - d. The point is not to start name calling, but rather it is to open our eyes to the fact that there is a difference between knowing who God is and glorifying Him as God.

### C. It is these kinds of people to which the wrath of God is going to be revealed (1:18).

1. If we fail to heed this warning, then the wrath of God is going to be upon us.
2. Israel often experienced the wrath of God, even though they were the people of God.
  - a. Ex. 32 – The Children of Israel appointed a golden calf as their leader, whom, they said, had brought them out of Egypt.
  - b. Num. 13-14 – The children of Israel refused to enter the land of Canaan.
  - c. Num. 21:4-9 – The children of Israel complained about a lack of food and water, and the manna that they were eating.

3. Today, we (through disobedience) will experience the wrath of God if we do not live as if we believe there is a God (1:18).
  - a. If we find ourselves living the kind of life that Paul warns us about (1:22-32), we will be the recipient of the eternal wrath of God.
  - b. Heb. 10:26-31 - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

III. Today, we should heed this warning of Paul and live as if we know that there is a God.

A. In order to be pleasing to God, we must "glorify Him as God."

1. Because there is a God, we should "glorify Him as God" (1:21).
2. This means simply that we live a holy life that is dedicated to Him because of what He has done for us.

B. The only way to do this is to put Him first in all things in our lives.

1. We will never be pleasing to God if we do not put Him first.
2. Because He has created us and continually loves us, we should want to follow after Him.
3. It is only by doing such that we can spend eternity in heaven with Him.