

AN ABSENCE OF GRATITUDE

Rom 1:18-23

1. God's wrath is being revealed.

- a. Against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.
- b. Why? Because the truth is staring them in the face. Plainly.
 - Something does and can not come from nothing. Creation points to the Creator.
 - Our world has His "fingerprints" all over it. (Ps 19:1-4a)
 - Those who reject the evidence are culpable. No excuses!

2. Although humanity instinctively knows God, it largely rejects that knowledge.

- a. They neither give Him glory or thanks.
- b. Their thinking has become futile and their hearts darkened.
- c. They make claims to wisdom but are actually fools.
 - They worship created things rather than God.
 - They worship themselves (and in so doing degrade themselves).
 - They prefer the lie to the truth.
 - Go where you will in this world, everywhere people worship something.

3. Therefore God gave them* over to their sinful desires (vs 24, 26, 28). (Depravity)

- a. To self - gratification and mutual degradation. (It all stems from self-worship: Ez 16:49-50, 2 King 17:5, Lk 12:16-21).
- b. They overflow with all kinds of nasty stuff: (See also 2 Tim 3:1-5, 4:1-5)
- c. They not only practice this rebellion, but approve of those who do it.

4. Lk 6:35-36. - How does God act towards the ungrateful? How are we to act?

- a. It's a sign of the times. Probably at any time. 2 Tim 3:2
- b. How are we to be different? Ex 23:4-5, Lk 6:27-36
 - To not respond in kind.
 - To be merciful as our God is merciful. He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

5. Are we grateful (and to the right Person)? Deut 8:10-18

- a. What do we have that we haven't received? (1 Cor 4:7, 1 Pet 4:10)
 - The Israelites offered to God the firstfruits of their flocks, herds and produce. E.g., Ex 22:29, 23:19, Deut 26:1-15, Prov 3:9-10, the idea seeming to be to acknowledge our dependence on Him. To honor Him for our increase.
 - We are called upon to, *in view of God's mercy*, to offer Him our very selves. (Rom 12:1, 1 Cor 6:10)
- b. Heb 13:15-16. Be thankful and generous.

Ingratitude leads us to self/false worship and judgment.

Gratitude leads us to worship, dependence on God and to compassionate ministry.

* "Them" refers to those who reject and suppress the truth about God and engage in false worship.