

## 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.

**LOOKING BACK**  
**Deuteronomy 8:1-20**

**1. Be careful to follow God's commands**

**vs 1**

- a. That you may enjoy His favor and blessing. (Jn 14:21, Gal 5:19-23, 2 Tim 3:17)
- b. That you might possess what He has promised. (*It isn't ever ours by right.*)

**2. Remember how God has led you over time (at this time it had been 40 years). vs 2-5**

- a. To humble and to test you. *We are works in progress!* (Phil 3:4b-14)
- b. He withholds things but also blesses. *He is our Shepherd (Gen 48:15, Ps 23).*
  - To teach us that there is more to life than "bread."
  - To teach us that He is the bread of life (Jn 6)
  - To teach us to depend on His provision and word.
  - To teach us to trust His discipline and shepherding. (E.g., Heb 12:4-13)

**3. If you trust Him, follow Him.**

**vs 6-20**

- a. He will care for us (Mtt 6)
- b. When we eat and are satisfied, do not forget Who provides.
  - Adversity will usually draw us near, not prosperity. But from our vantage point, it can be tough. But we need to remember His faithfulness. (Ps 119:75, Lam 3:19-36)
  - When things go "our way" it can be easy to drift. We can forget the lessons learned in the hard times.
  - Remember Who gives us the ability to live and prosper.
- c. Don't forget Him. If we do, it *will* end well but not until we have learned. A look in the "mirror" can be a healthy thing! (Ecc 12)

What can we thank Him for today regarding:

Our salvation? What is the alternative?

Our provision? What does He promise? (Mtt 6:25-34/1 Tim 6:6-8)

Our relationships? How have they enriched us?. (Phil 2:1-4)

Our confidence? How has it comforted us? (Jn 5:24, Rom 5:1-5, 1 Jn 5:13)

For what else can we thank Him? (Job 1:13-22, Eph 5:20, 1 Thes 5:18)