

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Romans 1:18-32

INTRODUCTION

The modern folk musical which has made such an impact upon people,
"Purpose" and "Good News", and "Tell It Like It Is" has influenced many people.
This has also been the expression in secular music and phraseology as well as
in religious music, and such phrases as "the in group" and "in crowd". I read
the other day about John Hardy who recently opened a new service station, says
he now is a member of the "in crowd". Insignificant, insecure, and in debt.

The penetrating words of "Tell It Like It Is" is just the way Paul
does it, and is just the way the Bible always does it.

The words which go,

"Let's tell the truth about the world we live in,

Let's ask about the God who put it here.

Let's tell the truth about our friends and neighbors;

Let's check the cause of all our hate and fears.

Let's look at love and find out where it comes from.

Let's look at life and all we hold dear.

Let's check it now before it quickly passes.

Let's use today before it disappears.

Let's tell it like it is - tell it like it is."

And every time we tell it like it is, we always have somebody questioning our thinking - "What is he driving at?" Quite often you preach a sermon, and somebody will say, "Now, who was that man for?" or "What did he have to say that for?" Now, the preacher is supposed to preach from the Word of God. He is supposed to tell it just like it is. And that is what we propose to do this morning. You mention something about some of these rock festivals sometimes, people raise their eyebrows. They say, "Well, that's just part of this age."

Now, Paul told it just like it was, and I have taken what Paul has said here and I have divided it up into two simple statements that I think every person here this morning can understand. First of all, the wrath of God, v. 18, 19, 20. Second, the depravity of man, v. 21 - 32. Now let's see exactly just what Paul said in telling it, in giving it to us, in searching out about the world we live in and in telling us about our friends and neighbors, and about hate and about the God who made this world. Let's just ask Paul about the God who made this world.

I. The wrath of God, v. 18 - 20.

v. 18 First we note V. 18 that (divine wrath) is fact. There is no use to hide it.

God is perfect love, that's a reality also. The wrath of God is necessary as a

reaction of his holiness to evil. He takes issue with sin because of his moral nature - he reacts against immorality.

The wrath of God never means that God becomes mad with rage or that he acts with uncontrollable anger, or that His is a wrath that desires to get revenge. Someone has stated it in these words, "God hates sin, but he loves the sinner."

Now, Paul says that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven. It is directly from heaven, and it is a judgment upon the wicked that God is against the wicked. It is a matter of divine revelation that God frowns upon sin whether it is in the life of a native in Africa or whether it is in the life of somebody here in America.

From the history, God from the beginning in Eden, he pronounced a curse upon all who participated in sin.

This was revealed when the flood came during Noah's day.

The wrath of God was revealed when Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped off the face of the earth. He sent his wrath against Tyre. God sent his wrath against Egypt, and he sent his wrath against his own people in the wilderness and they had the fiery serpents in their midst. * You remember that Capernaum is lost and people cannot even locate it today because Jesus said, "Woe unto this city," and it

spelled the doom of that city.

You will note here that there are two things: First, wrath is expressed against ungodliness, that is, a denial of the character and essence of God. Second, against unrighteousness, which is a denial of his right to rule and has to do with the blackness of sin in denying truth. There is no evil from a white lie on down that will escape the wrath of God. Ungodliness, impiety in religion. It covers all the transgressions of both the law and the prophets. To be ungodly is to be unrighteous, and to be irreligious leads always to immorality. So, V. 18 is an ~~xxx~~ introduction to the section that God's wrath is against every kind of sin on the part of men. The whole human race is involved. All men are alike in this. Men try to hold down the truth, but now Paul is telling it like it is. They resent the indictments of conscience, and try to repress truth which makes them aware of their moral accountability before God.

Men fight against truth that reveals their guilt and condemns them as lost and undone. Men deny the fact of moral guilt. They pretend to believe that there is no hell, and they try to laugh off the fact that this is a moral universe, and that man will reap as he sows. They rationalize and speculate all because they do not want to face up to the truth that God's wrath is against sin.

Now, there are two or three things ~~in~~ here in this passage of scripture

that tell us about God, and the nature of God.

~~First~~ First, I think we discover that (God is spirit.) This definition of God was given by Jesus to the Samaritan woman.

Second, that (God is light.) When he speaks about darkness later on, and how unconverted men live and love darkness, and this indeed ~~is~~ an indication that God is light.

Third, that (God is love) which shows his concern for mankind, and is ready to forgive man regardless of his sin.

Fourth, it tells us about the (righteousness of God which is revealed by ~~our faith)~~ that here is a God that is righteous in every way. And when we think of God getting angry or wrath, we must think of this wrath as meant intense moral displeasure with regard to man's sin. He puts forth against it. In God there stands everything that is opposition to man's disobedience. So we regard wrath in opposition to love. And this wrath is founded in the righteousness of God. When Adam fell, it was a moral displeasure to God. And man has ever since remained under this displeasure whenever he was in disobedience ~~to~~ to God.

19- You will note in V. 19 that this wrath is against unrighteousness, that the good tidings speak that this was revealed from heaven. The ungodly are people who are not like God. They are righteous, they do not maintain in their conduct