

what they ought to maintain. If I might illustrate this with an old testament character, there comes to mind Esau. He was a chosen type of such, but he lived for the pleasure of the world, for hunting and lusting with the daughters of Heth. He had little sense of the duty which he owed to God. The scripture says that God hated Esau, which means that God's moral nature abhorred the type of man that Esau represented, and the word "hate" here means that he was unlike God. He was wicked. He had self as his God, and of course, hell will be his home. Now, Christ died for the ungodly. Hence, no matter how far a man has fallen, or how much he may be under the wrath of God, Christ is able to save him.

Now, the term "unrighteousness" means that a man is without perfect obedience to the law. It means that a man ~~does not live~~ does not live up to the requirements of God, and that a man is condemned in the presence of God. And a man who is without God's righteousness cannot be obedient. He is under the wrath of God. He that believeth not the wrath of God abideth on him. This man may know the way and the truth. It may be clear to him but he will suppress the truth. He will deliberately reject the truth. There are some people who know the truth who some day may expect to surrender to it and to obtain God's righteousness and salvation, but at the present time they are not yielded to it. They suppress the truth in their lives, and the wrath of God abides upon them. Woe unto such a

person if he is cut off before the time of his reconciliation. Woe unto him that continues this downward life, in steps toward heathendom. He knows the truth, but he doesn't live up to it. V. 19 says God has showed it unto them. They know this because God has showed it to them. His righteousness has been ~~xxxv~~ revealed. And yet they do not this truth. Now Paul is telling it like it is. You have light today. You have the revealed light of God which tells you how you ought to live. Are you living according to that light? Now Paul is telling you like it is. He is saying if you are not, you are what? You are under the wrath of God. Not only was the world bad and under the wrath of God in the time of the flood and the time of Noah. But man says today, "I am not so bad. I can make amends. There are many people who are not any worse than I am." Or, "I might be better, but I might not be too bad." But now God says, "I have revealed the light to you, and you are under the wrath of God."

Now let's tell the truth about the world ~~z~~ we live in and about the God who put it here.

## II. The depravity of man, V. 21- 32

Let's look at life, and let's check out the causes of hate and fear.

And let's discover what Paul has to say in telling us about this. In V. 20,

Paul says that the wrath of God is so conclusive in that the invisible things of



him from the creation of the world are clearly seen by man, and yet have been misunderstood. And they are without excuse. This 20th verse is telling it like it is. You are without excuse. That which may be known - man knows that there is a God, that He is a law-giver. Man knows that he is responsible to God. It is very important that all men everywhere know that they are personally responsible to God, for the knowledge of God has been received through conscience and through nature. This could be retained, it could be acted upon. Judged by the wonderful revelations which God has given us which he has spoken to a man's conscience, he has given to us through nature, He has declared to us through the scripture. Now, man's problem is living up to the knowledge of God which has been given to him.

The American Indian somehow discovered that there was a great spirit.

How did he know this?

Conscience is called that internal revelation.

Nature is the external revelation. Scripture is the special revelation.

Therefore, man is utterly without excuse, if he does not worship God and ~~use~~ <sup>yield</sup> his life to Him, he has had the privilege of beholding all the works of God.

Napoleon on a warship the story goes in the Mediterranean on a star lit night passed a group of officers mocking at the idea of a god. He stopped and sweeping his hand toward the stars said, "Gentlemen, you must get rid of those first."

Men secretly believe there is a power above them, and that their evil deeds deserve the wrath of that power, and sometimes when in sudden peril, they will scream, "God have mercy." This must have been behind Phaoroh's words, Ex. 10:16. "I have sinned against Jehovah and against ~~you~~ you." Revelations have been given and are in existence, and this verse tells us that God has ~~revealed~~ revealed things. The invisible things are clearly seen. The first Bible in the sky above - Psalm 19 - and the earth beneath. It was not for lack of knowledge that men were sinning in Paul's day, but in spite of it. It is not for lack of knowledge that men today sin, but in spite of it. Sin is an infirmity. It is not an inability from lack of development, but it is something that men prefer over against God. This unrighteousness.

Now the course of man's descent down in spite of all this knowledge is here given to us.

21 First, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God. V. 21.

They knew there was one God, but they made other gods, and this was the first step away from God.

21 Second, neither were they ~~xxx~~ thankful, V. 21. Although they had

seen, or they knew, they did not give thanks unto Him. Now I take this that

this meant ~~xxx~~ the matter of praise and worship. They were a thankless generation.



They had no time to praise God. And this telling it like it is. How many people today really have time to praise and to worship God? We make time for everything else. When it is convenient, we might take time to thank God.

21 Third, they were vain in their imaginations, V. 21. They indulged in worthless speculation about God. They trifled in their thoughts about God. How many times have you had heard about conferences and things today - people questioning about the ~~Almighty~~ Almighty God. And they enter into ~~vague~~ vague, fruitless conversation. Now once we abandon obedience to the true God, we begin to substitute ourselves for God. Man begins to measure things by himself rather than God. Today man judges God on the basis of his own concepts, rather than judging himself according to the revealed concepts.

With the increased knowledge today which men have, they will have nothing to do with the justice of God of the Old Testament. Many question the miracle-working God of the New Testament. And many doubt the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. They create their own concept of God. And this becomes nothing else except idolatry.

21 Fourth, their foolish (heart was darkened), V. 21. The center of life, the will, the thought, ~~the~~ emotion was all darkened by empty speculations. A life becomes incapable of understanding what is truth and what is right. If God is

light, when God is ~~not~~ rejected, darkness is the only answer. Now this is the history of the race of mankind, and man has gone from the light to darkness, turning away, and this is why he was expelled from the Garden of Eden. The very heart of man is gm ungodly. Though faced with the fact of God, they fail to give him the glory or treat him as God. They have no reverence for Him. They never say thank you. They push God away with indifference. That is why when the missionary begins to preach against such as sin, as having ~~one~~ more than one ~~life~~ <sup>wife,</sup> we find often that the heathen do not want the truth any more than the people in this country want the open Bible. Men have had the light, but they have refused to take this into their knowledge, and it is thoroughly absurd for men in their reasoning, it is ridiculous the way people close their eyes and take an easy path, and the modernisms and these cults that not only deny God, but deny the reality of sin and of Satan. And through the wrong thinking they take this soothing w syrup and surely they are going to be rudely awakened one day.

So the heart is foolish and is darkened.

22 Fifth, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. V. 22

As soon as a man trusts in the conceit of his own wisdom, he has abandons himself to the spiritual and says that that is out. True wisdom begins with humility. Now God counts the wisdom of this world foolishness. They became fools. Now in the



scripture, the fool is the man who says there is (no God). Now we are just  
 telling it like it is. They say that there is no such thing as God in this  
 earth, and they explain God away, and try to explain life on a natural basis.  
 There are today philosophers and professors who make such estimates of religious  
 leaders and of God, and believe that they have the last word in wisdom. But Paul  
 declares that they are fools, and their practice is foolishness because they are  
 unable to properly appraise their own lives. What a horrible delusion. What an  
 unspeakable thing to happen to a person. They profess to be wise. People today  
 sit at the feet of some professors who pour out their spiritual poison. They  
 idolize hog-pen doctrines of Freud, and they count themselves as wise. They say  
 that God is not a person. That men evolved from monkeys. That morals are the  
 result of just old habits. And that self-enjoyment and self-expression is what  
 we need ~~now~~ today, and that we can indulge in all our desires. This they say is  
 the path to wisdom. It is the path of those who go down to the pits and to the  
 judgment. This is something that the morals of Sodom which our Lord told about  
 which hastened the day of their calamity. Now until man knows his state of sin,  
 and that he wants God to take ~~of~~ care of him - until he comes to that place, he  
 will have nothing to do with the grace of God. He will evade it, Paul says. And  
 evil educators are real monsters in the world today. Those who do not tell the