

THE BAD NEWS ABOUT THE WHOLE WORLD

Romans 1:18–32

Last time, we gave serious and lengthy thought to the “good news” that God wants the whole world to know. It is based on His love, and it has to do with how God’s righteousness is made available to all who believe. Today, we will turn the coin over and give serious and lengthy thought to the “bad news” that God wants the whole world to know. The sinfulness of humanity sets in motion God’s wrath, which leads to His response of judgment. But instead of being changed by that, the sinner goes ever deeper into a life of idolatry, immorality, and iniquity. And this is not simply the response of a few people who are guilty and shameful in their thoughts and actions, it characterizes the whole world of humanity—we are all guilty, we are all lost, we are equally evil down to the very core of our being. The vivid examples used in these verses represent the most extensive statement in all of Holy Scripture describing the complete totality of depravity.

I. God’s Wrath “. . . *they are without excuse*”

A. The Fact (v. 18)

B. The Reason (v. 19)

C. The Outcome (v. 20)

II. Humanity’s Wrong “. . . *God gave them over*”

A. Given Over to Idolatry (vv. 21–25)

B. Given Over to Immorality (vv. 26–27)

C. Given Over to Iniquity (vv. 28–32)

III. Our Response

A.

B.