

A blue-tinted photograph of a classical building facade. The top part shows a pediment with a relief sculpture of several figures. Below the pediment is a row of columns with Corinthian capitals. The text is overlaid on the image.

“How Low Can We Go?”

Romans 1:18-32

“Conversion Therapy” (in Canada)

“a practice, treatment OR SERVICE designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual; change a person’s gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth; repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior; or repress or reduce a person’s gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth”

II Timothy 3:12-13

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in
Christ Jesus **will be** persecuted,
while evil people and impostors will go on from
bad to worse,
deceiving and being deceived.*

The Book of Romans

- Written from Corinth, around A.D. 56, on Paul's 3rd missionary journey
- Paul was planning to take money to the poor in Jerusalem and then go to Rome.
- Purposes:
 - 1) Introduce himself as one who preached the same Gospel
 - 2) Unify the church around doctrine

Romans Outline

- I. Introduction and Greetings (1:1-15)
 - II. Theme (1:16-17)
 - III. Our Condemnation (1:18-3:20)
 - IV. Our Justification (3:21-5:21)
 - V. Our Restoration (6-11)
 - VI. Our Sanctification (12-16)
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KEY POINT:

When men abandon God, God abandons them.

Romans 1:18-32

I. God is Angry. (vs. 18)

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

“Wrath”

- 20 words for “*wrath*” in the O.T.;
2 words for “*wrath*” in the N.T.
- Over 600x in the Bible
- From the Greek word *orgay*, which is a settled, controlled anger
- Examples of the Lord’s wrath – Revelation 6:16-17;
11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15

Psalm 7:11

*God is a righteous judge,
and a God who feels indignation **every day**.*

Thomas Watson, Body of Divinity



“Is God so infinitely holy?
Then see how unlike to God sin is...
No wonder, therefore,
that God hates sin,
being so unlike to him, nay,
so contrary to him;
it strikes at his holiness.”

Romans 1:18-32

I. God is Angry. (vs. 18)

II. So, Why Is God Angry with Man? (vs. 19-32)

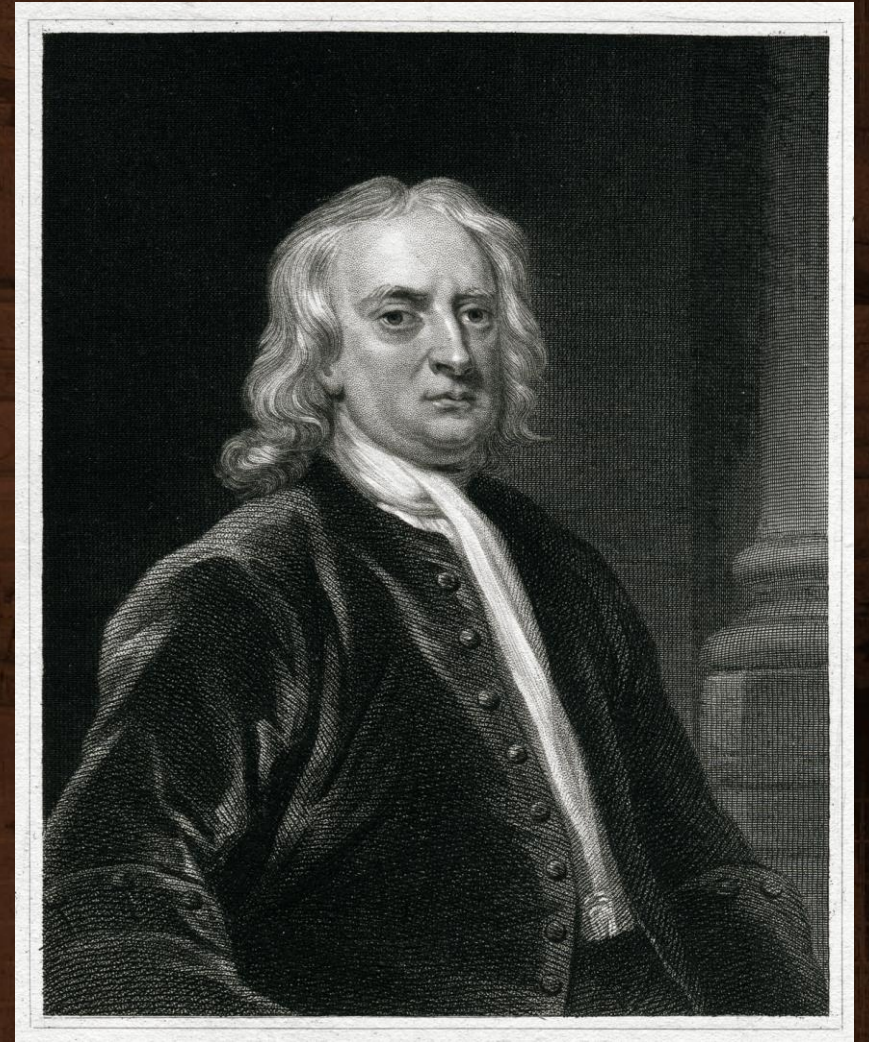
- *Because of our spiritual irrationality (vs 19-20)*

Psalm 19:1

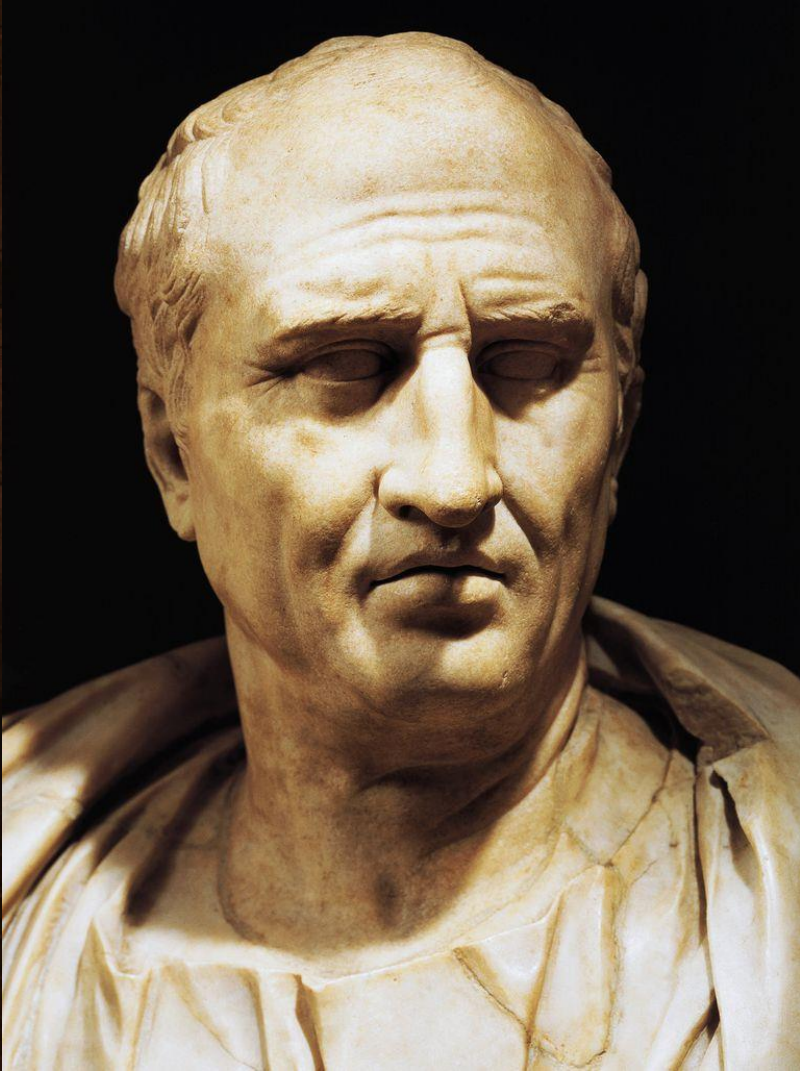
*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

Isaac Newton

“This most beautiful system of sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being.”



Cicero



“What can be so plain and so clear as when we behold the heavens and view the heavenly bodies, that we should conclude there is some deity of a most excellent mind by whom these things are governed?”

Romans 1:18-32

I. God is Angry. (vs. 18)

II. So, Why Is God Angry with Man? (vs. 19-32)

- *Because of our spiritual irrationality (vs 19-20)*

- *Because of our spiritual ignorance (vs. 21-23)*

William Hendriksen

“Their minds cannot reason straight; their emotions cannot function properly, imparting peace and joy to their lives; and their wills do not even try to be in harmony with God’s holy law.”



Ephesians 4:18

*They are darkened in their understanding,
alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance
that is in them,
due to their hardness of heart.*

ungodliness and unrighteousness

↳ suppressing God's Word

↳ denial of the existence of God

↳ refusing to thank God

↳ irrational thinking

↳ dark immorality

↳ self

↳ idolatry

Romans 1:18-32

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II. So, Why Is God Angry with Man? (vs. 19-32)

- *Because of our spiritual irrationality (vs 19-20)*
- *Because of our spiritual ignorance (vs. 21-23)*
- *Because of our spiritual immorality (vs. 24-27)*

"God gave them up"

- 3 times in this passage (vs. 24, 26, 28)
- Stages of abandonment
- The "how" God is angry
- Other references - I Corinthians 13:3; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2, 25; Mark 1:14; Acts 8:3; Matthew 5:25; 10:17-21; 18:34; Romans 4:25; 8:32; II Peter 2:4
- God withdraws His influence and blessing

C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

“The lost enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded and are therefore self-enslaved.”



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 - *Because of our spiritual immorality (vs. 24-27)*
 - *Because of our spiritual impenitence (vs. 28-32)*
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Isaiah 9:2

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

II Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

*All this is from God, who through Christ
reconciled us to himself and gave us the*

ministry of reconciliation; that is,

in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,

not counting their trespasses against them,

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

John 16:33

*...In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world.*