

QUESTION: Is God more likely to forgive or judge?

God's willingness to _____ is found in His righteousness, revealed in The Gospel, received by FAITH. See Romans 1:16-17

God's wiliness to _____ is found in the unrighteousness of mankind, expressed in our suppression of TRUTH, and our unwillingness to acknowledge, and honor God for who He is. See Romans 1:18-20

In Romans 1:18-25, Paul lays out 3 ways in which humanity, in our natural state (**born in sin**), reject God and thus incur His wrath.

REJECT GOD'S REVELATION (testimony of creation) VS19-20

Non-believers often ask for proof of God's existence. Paul informs us that God has provided such proof in His CREATION. See Romans 1:20

One of the exclusive, and indisputable attributes of humanity is our capacity for rational thought, **our ability to reason**. It is that God given ability for rational thought that informs us that we are not here by random chance. There is **design** in everything and so there must be a **Grand Designer**.

Through our rational thought, we've been able to discover a set of "LAWS" that govern over earth and the cosmos. Gravity being one such LAW. Where there are absolute LAWS there must be a **Grand Law Giver**.

Paul tells us that these things are knowable because the **Grand Designer/Law Giver** has revealed this most basic truth to us. See Psalm 19:1-4a, NLT Romans 1:20 tells us that because of God's revelation about Himself through His creation, humanity has **no excuse** for not recognizing His existence.

TRUTH POINT #1: God's revelation of Himself through creation displays His **eternal power** and **divine nature**, and thus His existence. However, this revelation is limited. It does not reveal the _____ or _____ of our sin, nor the _____ for it.

Romans: Unbelief In The Face Of Revelation

2

Romans 1:18-25

10/17/2021

The revelation Paul addresses here is called **General Revelation**. It provides the most basic, but necessary understanding of God. Namely that; ***He exists and is greater than His creation.***

REJECT GOD'S GLORY (pursue the inglorious) VS21-23

Paul informs us that **General Revelation** has done its job. It has revealed the Creator to His Creation. However, in the face of overwhelming revelation, humanity, has chosen to turn its back in unbelief.

It is said: ***Ones greatest strength can become ones greatest weakness.*** Because we can think through a situation and make an independent decision, we have the ability to choose a path that leads toward the light, or into darkness.

Despite our ability to see “**the light,**” (**God**) our fallenness has caused us to believe that our own way is best, and walking that path will eventually lead us into the most glorious light. **See Proverbs 14:12:**

TRUTH POINT #2: Sin's foolish darkness lead humanity to _____ from God's Glory to _____ the sin cursed, inglorious creation, as though it were the highest glory to pursue.

Humanity's rejection of God's Glory, to pursue the decay of creation locked in sin's curse... is akin to the utter foolishness of walking away from a bar of gold to pursue the possession of a cow chip.

Despite such ridiculousness, we have done exactly that. We have given our hearts to things created that cannot fulfill us, purposely ignoring the One who is Eternal, who can satisfy the deepest longings of our heart

REJECT GOD'S TRUTH (pursue Lies) VS24-25

We find that because humanity **rejected** God's Revelation and **rejected** His Glory, He gave us up to the delusions of our darkened minds because we **Rejected** His Truth also, and pursued creation-centered lies.

Romans: Unbelief In The Face Of Revelation

3

Romans 1:18-25

10/17/2021

God's Truth Rejected: it comes in several forms, but the basic truth that humanity has rejected is that...

- God is... He exists (big bang & evolution)
- Our highest honor, privilege, and duty is to worship and serve Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength

Creation-Centered Lies: the #1 lie humanity embraces, *and it comes in many differing forms*, is that we are **gods unto ourselves**... with the inalienable right to be worshipped or to worship whatever thing our hearts desire. **See William E. Henley's poem, Invictus.**

TRUTH POINT #3: Without the supernatural working of God's Holy Spirit upon our godless, unrighteous soul, we will always choose _____ over _____ and will devise whatever narrative needed to justify our position.

This is the SAD reality of all born of Adam's seed. Left to ourselves we all will reject God's revelation, His glory, and His truth, seeking with all we have to make ourselves out to be our own god's or to create gods of our own choosing. Having rejected God in this way, the natural end for this path is eternal condemnation locked in hatred of ourselves, others, and God.

THE GOSPEL – VS16-17

This is why The Gospel is such Good News! Although God allowed humanity to go its own way in the depravity of our fallen souls, **He determined to provide a way of redemption**.

God's righteousness would not allow Him to turn a blind-eye to our sin to simply excuse it. Sin had to be punished. So, God, The Father sent God, The Son, (**Jesus**) who is fully Divine, to become fully Human so that He could stand in our place and take sin's full punishment which included dying in the flesh.

Romans: Unbelief In The Face Of Revelation

4

Romans 1:18-25

10/17/2021

He then was raised to life anew, conquering sin and death so that condemned sinners from every nation, tribe, and tongue could be saved from sin's curse and given new eternal life along with Membership in God's Family, and Citizenship in His Kingdom.

It makes absolutely no sense in this **upside-down kingdom** of fallen man, that one Man's death could pay sin's debt for other men, and that one Man's resurrection could bring new life to other men. But that is exactly what it does because that one Man was none-other God our Creator.

God, The Father also sent God, The Spirit to call sinners to repentance, provide FAITH to believe, and apply the Saving Grace Jesus made possible for those who will trust in Christ.

This is The Gospel... and it is really Good News!

WRAP UP

We have one of two options:

1. We can respond to this revelation in belief and be saved, becoming one of God's dearly loved children
2. We can remain Unbelieving, in the face of this revelation and remain under the condemnation of your sin

I urge you to respond to this revelation by believing on The Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian, today's message is another point of equipping you for sharing The Gospel with your family, friends, neighbors, and associates. Will you allow God's Spirit to use you to honor God by telling others of His saving Grace through Jesus?

We stand ready to help you any way we can.