

THE BOOK OF ROMANS  
"Indifference to God"

Romans 3:15-18

Oct 28, 1984

INTRODUCTION

1. Universal sinfulness is taught in Scripture (v. 9). It is supported by two full chapters (1 and 2). But additionally, Paul supports his view with Scripture quotations (vv. 10-18).
2. The Scriptural quotations provided in this section "stand written" (perfect tense--what a tremendous timeless declaration). Previous studies have shown the world to have: a. None righteous. b. None understanding. c. None seeking. d. All rebellious. e. All unprofitable. f. All no good. These themes are not open to contradiction. They stand written concerning human character.
3. Human conduct is no less sinful. Men sin in word (vv. 13, 14). Specific sins are recorded: a. Corrupting. b. Deceitful. c. Uncharitable. d. Blasphemous. According to this, the anatomical order is from the inside out--throat, tongue, lips, mouth. No matter what order--man is totally depraved. The Apostle Paul relentlessly pursues this subject. Look how human conduct is depraved in deed:

1. IT IS MURDEROUS "Their feet are swift to shed blood" The quotation here is from Isaiah 59:7,8. Think of it--the feet of the first baby who ever walked this earth, were swift to shed blood (cf. Gen. 4:1-15). How could this be? Because he had inherited the fallen nature of his father Adam (Jer. 17:9). The only way to get rid of such envy is through the new birth (1 John 3:11-13). Note that Jesus says the one who hates his brother is a murderer (Mt. 7:21, 22). The act is in the thought as the corn stalk is in the seed.
2. IT IS OPPRESSIVE "Destruction and misery are in their ways"

This word "destruction" is only found here in the N.T. It means to rub together, crush. "Misery" is also only found here. There is an adage "blessed is the nation that has no history" because all history is but the annals of strife and human woe. Consider the so-called island paradises of the Pacific. They are filled with petty wars and cannibalism. Africa is filled with internal strife. Only those who are strongest survive. British sold opium to the millions in China for monetary gain and untold suffering. Think of labor difficulties over the years--sweat shops, child labor, etc.--all for money!

Consider the recent reports of gangs controlling restaurants in N through blackmail, or the Boston fishmarkets (Readers Digest)? Man is vile!

3. IT IS QUARRELSOME "The way of peace they have not known"

What this says is that wherever they go they leave a trail of woe and destruction. There is no contradiction here with peace efforts or pacifism. Remember that Gandhi was a pacifist, but when the British left India Gandhi and his followers slaughtered hundreds of thousands. Gandhi's daughter more recently allegedly ordered the brutal killing of hundreds of sikhs in a temple. Only those at peace with God know the way of peace (and some who profess to know Him have caused untold sufferings). Why? Because of Rom. 8:7. The U.S.A. is no angel of peace. We also have slums, race riots, repression, psychiatric hospitals, etc. All points to unrest. Only when He comes will peace come (Rom. 8:21, 22).

CONCLUSION

These great indictments by God against humanity are recorded because of one huge problem: the fear of God is not before (double compound in Greek) man's eyes. This is at the root of man's dreadful condition. The atheist seek to argue God out of existence. Those mentioned argue God out of existence. Those mentioned here seek to ignore God out of existence. The fear of God is reverential awe. It is a twist in God's goodness and wisdom. It is a love for God and unwillingness to displease Him. Fear of God makes a man act righteously (Gen. 42:18), hate covetousness (Ex. 18:21), accept commandments (Ex. 20:20). Moreover, it prohibits and promotes certain actions (Lev. 19:14, 32; 25:17, 36; Deut. 10:12; 13:2, 4; 9:20). The Psalms are full of what happens when a man fears God (5:7; 15:4; 19:9; 25:14; 31:19; 33:18, 19; 34:7, 9; 61:5; 85:9; 147:11; 145:9). How is the fear of the Lord obtained? Consider God's Word and works (Deut. 4:10; Josh. 4:24). If there is a deficiency in your life of the fear of God, flee to the Word with an open heart full of surrender (Psa. 119:130; Jn 17:17; 1 Pet. 2:2). Scripture is replete with support for all humanity being "under sin" (v. 9).