The Guilt of the Heathen

Romans 1:19-32

Introduction:

1. The Willful Blindness of the Heathen – 1:19–20

A. God’s Witness is Unmistakable – 1:19

“because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them”

B. God’s Witness is Universal – 1:20a

1. All Men Are Exposed to It

“For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead,”

2. All Men Are Exposed by It – 1:20b

“so that they are without excuse,”

II. The Wicked Beliefs of the Heathen – 1:21–25

A. The Inflation of Man’s Own Godless Imagination – 1:21

1. Man Has Become Consciously Irreligious – 1:21a

“because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful,”

2. Man Has Become Consequently Irrational – 1:21b

“but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

B. The Influence of Man’s Own Graven Images – 1:22–25

1. The Idol Is Conceived by the Man – 1:22–23

“Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

2. The Man Is Deceived by the Idol – 1:24–25

a. His Sensual Enslavement – 1:24

“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,”

b. His Spiritual Enslavement – 1:25

“who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

III. The Wanton Behavior of the Heathen – 1:26–32

A. They Become Morally Perverted – 1:26–27

1. The Unnatural Sins of Men – 1:26

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.”

2. The Unnatural Sins of Women – 1:27

“Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

B. They Become Mentally Perverted – 1:28–32

1. The Cause of Wrong Thinking – 1:28

“And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;”

2. The Consequences of Wrong Thinking – 1:29–32

a. Debased Human Character – 1:29

“being filled with all unrighteousness sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,”

b. Debased Human Conduct – 1:30

“backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, “

c. Debased Human Conversation – 1:31

“undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;”

d. Debased Human Concepts – 1:32a

“who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same”

e. Debased Human Companionships – 1:32b

“but also approve of those who practice them.”

Conclusion: