

Topic: Sins of the Unbelievers
Text: **Romans 1:18-23 (KJV)**
Theme: “Reasons why God will judge the unbelievers”

Optional Introduction

- The sins of the believers are forgiven and “forgotten” by the Father, while that of the unbelievers are “remembered” and are to be punished.
- Hence, godless, wicked people are going to be judged according to their deeds. Ephesians 2:3 says we are by nature the children of wrath. This means that wrath is supposed to be our destiny and inheritance.
- But a big “THANK YOU” to Jesus who changed our destiny, from wrath to love, from shame to honour, and from condemnation to glory.
- Romans 1:18 attests that God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all sins of the unrighteous.
- This sermon explains the four valid reasons why God is fair and just to punish those who reject Him.

I. REVELATION

V19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

V20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse

A. God reveals Himself to men internally.

V19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

- Through conscience, the little voice of God. *Acts 17:22-23 “to the UNKNOWN GOD”*—there is an inner worship that they missed God in the midst of the gods they are worshipping.

B. God reveals Himself to men externally.

V20a For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...

- Through His creation. *Acts 14:15-17* “He did not leave Himself without witness.” God's creation speaks of Himself as a greater designer.

II. REJECTION

V21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

A. They rejected God because they did not glorify Him as God.

V21a Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God,

1. Not to glorify God means rejecting Him because to glorify Him is to praise/honour/exalt/treat Him with majesty and recognise His attributes.
2. The reason why we were created was to glorify Him. God judged men because they reject His revealed glory. (Jeremiah 13:15-17)
3. Refusing to give glory to God is pride. Herod was put to death for not giving glory to God. (Acts 12:20-23)
4. Nebuchadnezzar spent seven years of insanity until He gave glory to God.

B. They rejected God because they were not thankful to Him.

V21b ...neither were thankful...

1. Not thanking God is rejecting Him.
2. Not ascribing to God the blessings is rejecting Him.

C. They rejected God because they became godless in their thinking.

V21c they became futile, and godless in their thinking—with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning and stupid speculation (Amplified)

1. Condoning and legalising abortion, homosexuality, divorce, etc.
2. Sometimes people get confused because the ways of the world are churchy while the church becomes worldly.

III. RATIONALIZATION

V22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

A. Making something unreasonable as reasonable.

B. Making something erroneous as truth; hence they cannot distinguish truth and error.

C. On sin,

MAN CALLS IT:	GOD CALLS IT:
Defect	Disease
Chance	Choice
Error	Enmity
Fascination	Fatality
Luxury	Leprosy
Liberty	Lawlessness
Mistake	Madness
Weakness	Wilfulness

IV. RELIGION

V23 *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

A. People are incurably religious.

1. 1.7 billion people have unidentified religions
2. 4.2 billion people need somebody/something to worship (Exodus 20:3; 23)
3. Things worshipped by people:
 - a. Man
 - b. Creeping things—Egyptians worship beetles, bugs, snakes, and flies. Beelzebub is the god of flies.
 - c. Four-footed animals—calves, cows, bulls
 - d. Birds