THE ROOT OF SIN

Romans 1:18–32

Key Verse: 1:21

1. What “revelations” does Paul contrast, and why? (17,18) What does the phrase “is revealed from heaven” suggest? (Job28:24; Ps11:4) What does Paul mean by “all ungodliness and unrighteousness”? (cf. 2Ti3:2–4) What incites God’s wrath, and what does it mean to do this? (18b)
2. What “truth” does Paul say people are suppressing? (19,20,25) What are God’s “invisible attributes”? (20a) What does it mean that they “have been clearly perceived …in the things that have been made”? What is Paul’s conclusion, and why? (20b)
3. Read verse 21a. How does this further illustrate Paul’s point? Why does God always deserve honor and thanks from everyone? (11:36; cf. 1Ch29:11,12; 1Ti1:17; Rev4:11; 5:9,12) How can we honor and thank him daily? (Col2:6,7)
4. What happens to people when they do not honor and thank God? (21b,22) What does it mean to have “futile thinking” and a “foolish” and “darkened” heart? (Ps14:1; Eph4:18) What is the first foolish “exchange” people made? (23) How did God respond? (24) What does it mean that “God gave them up”? Why did he do this? (25)
5. To what else did God give people up? (26a) What other “exchange” does Paul mention that people made, what language does he use to describe it, and why? (26,27)
6. To what third thing did God give people up, and why? (28) What is “a debased mind”? How does Paul describe sin’s effect on individuals, families, communities, and society-at-large? (29–32) Why does he want us to know the root and progression of sin?