

# Romans 1:18-32

*It has been said that the first step in solving a problem is to identify and define the problem. This week we will look at sin, our great problem, and God's wrath. Ask God to give you eyes to see and an open heart to respond to this important chapter of his word.*

## Observation

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1. Last week in verse 17 Paul spoke about the righteousness of God. This week we will see just how far men and women are from His righteousness. In verse 18 the apostle Paul stated, "the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness." Define the words below.
  - wrath
  - revealed
  - godlessness
  - wickedness
  - suppress
  - truth

What is the problem Paul is describing in verse 18? Rewrite Romans 1:18 in your own words.

2. Paul points out how God's invisible attributes—that are clear to all mankind through his creation—have always shown man that God is real. But just because someone acknowledges that God is real does not mean they are saved. Read James 2:19 and Hebrews 11:6. What two divine qualities does Paul mention in Romans 1:20?
3. Where does Paul say we can easily see God's divine attributes?
4. According to Romans 1:20, what is the condition of one who will not acknowledge the truth about God?
5. Paul clearly taught that the problem was not a lack of knowledge but a lack of humility. To acknowledge God requires a humble heart. They were unwilling to do this. Look at Romans 1:21-22. How does Paul describe their heart condition?
6. Read Genesis 1:26 and Romans 1:23-25. What was God's plan for mankind and how distorted did Paul say it had become?
7. Notice the words "exchanged" and "rather than" in verse 25. These words show very clearly that it is by the choice of men and women. Reword Romans 1:25 in your own words.

8. In verses 24, 26 and 28 Paul states that "God gave them over." Highlight this phrase on the print out of Romans 1:18-32 at the back of this notebook, then circle what these three Scriptures say God gave them over to. Write the three things below.

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9. Paul continued in verses 29-31 showing the extent of the depravity of man. List them out below.

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Filled with every kind of wickedness</i> | 12.                                  |
| 2.   | 13.                                  |
| 3.   | 14.                                  |
| 4.   | 15.                                  |
| 5.   | 16. <i>Invent ways of doing evil</i> |
| 6.   | 17.                                  |
| 7.   | 18.                                  |
| 8.   | 19.                                  |
| 9.   | 20.                                  |
| 10. <i>They are gossips</i>                    | 21.                                  |
| 11.  |                                      |

10. Romans 1:32 tells us, those who do such things, do not do them in ignorance. They know God's righteous judgement. The word "know" in this verse is a translation of the Greek word "epiginosko," which means to become thoroughly acquainted, to know accurately. What is God's righteous decree mentioned in verse 32?

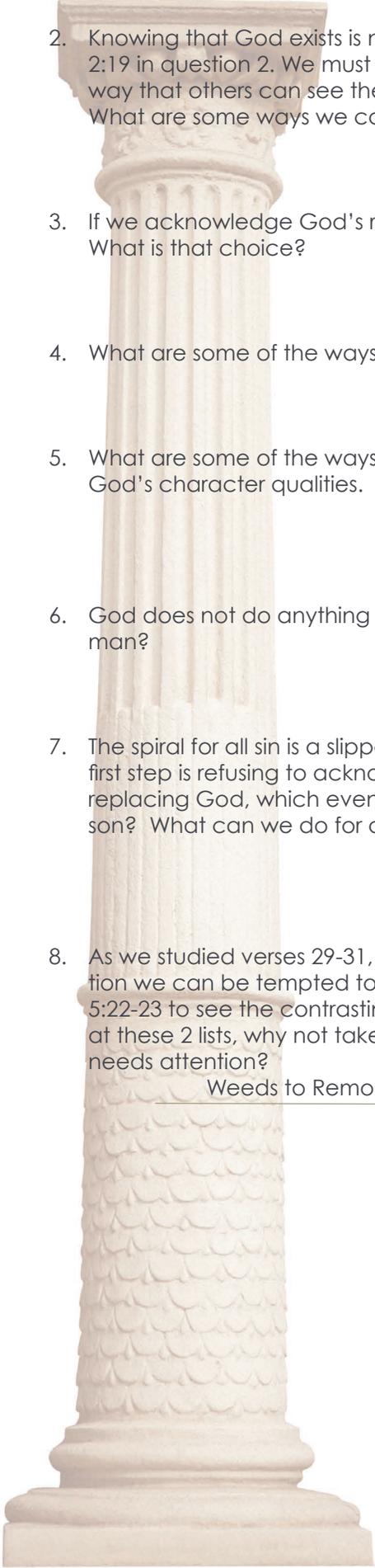
11. What is their response to God's decree?

## Application

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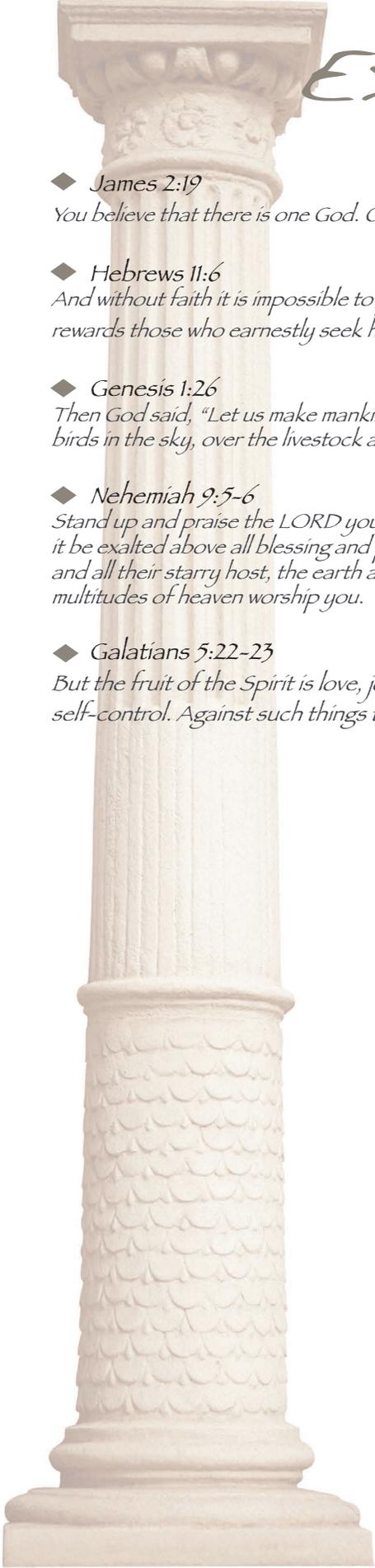
1. It is imperative that we look past the tangible proof, easily seen in creation, to God's unseen attributes such as, His power and His authority. Is it possible to truly glorify God if we do not acknowledge these qualities? What is the benefit of knowing and acknowledging God's divine character, his sovereign power and authority? What are we now able to do with a thankful heart?

You might want to read Nehemiah 9:5-6 to see a beautiful example.

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2. Knowing that God exists is not enough to receive forgiveness and eternal life. Refer back to James 2:19 in question 2. We must experience a personal relationship with God. Believers should live in such a way that others can see the blessing of knowing God intimately and experiencing his amazing grace. What are some ways we can help others see truth and turn to God?
  3. If we acknowledge God's righteousness and our unrighteousness, then we are left with a choice. What is that choice?
  4. What are some of the ways God displays his eternal power?
  5. What are some of the ways God displays his divine nature? You might want to start by listing some of God's character qualities.
  6. God does not do anything without purpose. Read Isaiah 43:7, 21 to find God's planned purpose for man?
  7. The spiral for all sin is a slippery slope—once a person starts down it tends to spiral out of control. The first step is refusing to acknowledge God. The second is proclaiming oneself to be wise. The next step is replacing God, which eventually leads to hating the God who created us. Is there hope for this person? What can we do for a friend or loved one caught in this downward spiral?
  8. As we studied verses 29-31, we saw the “fruits” of the depraved and sinful mind. Even after our salvation we can be tempted to produce some of this fruit instead of the “fruit of the Spirit.” Read Galatians 5:22-23 to see the contrasting list of good fruit that God's Spirit wants to produce in us. As you look at these 2 lists, why not take a few minutes to listen to the Father. Are there areas from either list that needs attention?

Weeds to Remove

Areas to Fertilize



# Extra Verses

◆ James 2:19

*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

◆ Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

◆ Genesis 1:26

*Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

◆ Nehemiah 9:5-6

*Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. <sup>6</sup> You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.*

◆ Galatians 5:22-23

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*