

Romans 1:18-19

“For the wrath of God (in contrast to God’s righteousness imputed to sinners, as stated in verse 17, His wrath or righteous retribution is also being revealed in the world, as outlined in verse 27, but in a lesser degree, as God’s temporal punishments of wrath are meted out upon the unsaved in this life, which in the case of homosexuals involves God abandoning them to their sinful choices, resulting in the loss of their sexual identity and creative design, as outlined in verses 26-28) **is revealed** (present tense - being revealed in the sphere of human life today) **from heaven** (where God sits on His throne and runs the universe – Ps. 103:19) **against all ungodliness** (failure to be God-conscious and like God, disregard for God, lack of reverence and devotion toward God, acting like He does not exist) **and unrighteousness** (wrongdoing – the result of ungodliness) **of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness** (willfully rejecting and ignoring the testimony of creation and their conscience, they hold down, restrain, and suppress the truth as they keep busy in wicked deeds, therefore concealing the truth regarding God’s existence, creation, and morals, which was placed within the realm of their conscience at conception); **Because** (the reason why God’s wrath is directed toward these heathen people) **that which may be known of God** (apart from special revelation – the Scriptures) **is manifest** (the God-given evidence of His existence, nature, and morals is open, plain and evident) **in them** (inwardly - intuitively or innately, God has impressed His original and only blueprint upon the consciences of all human beings, that there is one true God and Creator, who is the Lawgiver and who has a universal moral code that must be followed by the human race); **for God hath shewed it unto them** (outwardly - the creation of the world is adequate visual testimony to the existence and power of the divine Creator, the creation is a visible disclosure of the invisible God, which is next explained in verses 20-21).

Romans 1:20

“For the invisible things of him (referring to God’s invisible spiritual attributes of divine wisdom and power, His nature, being, and existence in the spiritual realm as the only true God – John 4:24) **from the creation of the world** (the doctrine of creationism as taught in Genesis 1) **are clearly seen** (surveyed and under observation – Psalm 19:1-3), **being understood** (through natural revelation or creation, God’s spiritual nature, existence, and power can be perceived and understood by intelligent beings) **by the things that are made** (natural creation and intelligent design reveals that there is a Creator God, through which everything

exists, and that we are responsible to Him as His created beings), **even his eternal power** (omnipotence) **and Godhead** (the eternally existent God as the only true divinity or deity is the power behind all creation and everything that exists – Col. 2:9); **so that they are without excuse**” (ignorance is indefensible in the case of heathen people because no person living anywhere on earth can claim ignorance about God, since His invisible existence is confirmed within their conscience and without through the visible creation, resulting in all people everywhere possessing enough divine truth that is both within and around them so they can conclude: “though he be not far from every one of us” – Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31).

Romans 1:21

“**Because that, when they** (the Gentile heathen who continue to repeat the cycle of apostasy) **knew God** (intuitively, instinctively, or innately in the realm of their conscience – Rom. 2:12-15 - man begins his life with knowledge of God’s being and character, not with ignorance of Him), **they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful** (in deliberately refusing to acknowledge God’s existence, they possessed no gratitude toward God, they did not extend honor toward God, they did not exalt and recognize Him as supremely worthy of honor, as the only true God that created everything - including themselves - 2 Tim. 3:2; Acts 17:25); **but became** (through a gradual process of suppressing and leaving the truth, reminding us that perversion is a preference and an intellectual revolt against God) **vain** (empty, worthless) **in their imaginations** (in rejecting natural revelation, they replace truth with their own speculative and perverted reasonings, arguments, disputes, thoughts, opinions, and theories related to man’s origin, purpose, and destiny that are against God - His existence, creation, and His morals), **and their foolish heart was darkened** (as part of the judgment of God, their darkness became even darker when they became blind to spiritual realities regarding God as the Creator and His moral code and ethics that were placed within them at birth, resulting in the denial of God’s existence - Eph. 4:18, “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”).

Romans 1:22-23

“**Professing themselves to be wise** (the pseudo wisdom of men without God, as in 1 Cor. 2:5, and ‘the world by wisdom knew not God’ as in 1 Cor. 1:21), **they became fools** (departing into mental and moral folly they become morons who deny that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Lawgiver of the universe – Ps. 14:1; 53:1 – and

because their own speculations can't replace the revelation they reject), **And changed** (exchanged – substituted false gods for the true God) **the glory of the uncorruptible God** (the imperishable and eternal Creator God who sits upon His heavenly throne radiating His resplendent glory – Heb. 1:3) **into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things**” (into that which is perishable, inglorious, and shameful - the perverted concepts of God promoted through idolatry – the dumb idols of false gods, which indicate man's regression through rationalization and false religion – 1 Cor. 12:2; Psalm 115:4-8).

Romans 1:24

*“Wherefore (because they did not acknowledge God's existence, giving honor and thanks to Him at the only true God, but instead became polytheistic idolaters) **God also gave them up** (as restated in verses 26 and 28, God does not give up on people but people give up on God, which results in God giving people over to their sinful choices, and in doing so, He puts into effect His divine permission for people to live in their sinful degradations, executing His judgment upon them by withdrawing the light of reason and conscience from them regarding His own existence and morals, causing them to suffer the full physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional effects of what they are doing) **to uncleanness** (moral impurity and defilement) **through the lusts of their own hearts** (God gives people over to their degrading acts of sin which are generated from the evil passions of their own hearts – Mark 15:19-20; Jer. 17:9; 2 Tim. 4:3; James 1:14), **to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:** (to bring shame, dishonor, and disgrace upon their bodies and diminish the human dignity of their bodies through debased sex, indicating that the perverted acts of homosexuality that are explained in verses 26-27 flow out of the idolatry of verses 22-23 – idolatry leads to immoral practices - the fruit of idolatry is immorality - a false image of God leads to a false understanding of sex which is debased, disgraced, and degraded from God's moral perspective).*

Romans 1:25

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie (rejecting the existence of the true God, a form of atheism, they move from monotheism to polytheism, exchanging the light of reason and revelation inherent in all human beings that there is only one God who exists as the Creator and Divine Moral Giver, replacing it for the lie, as in 2 Thessalonians 2:11, that idols are real gods and replace the true sovereign Lord and God, breaking the second commandment – Ex. 20:4), **and worshipped and**

served the creature (the false gods of paganism and heathenism which took on the form of animals and insects) **more than the Creator** (the majority of people living in the midst of a heathen society or community were found worshipping false gods instead of acknowledging the true and living God – Jer. 10:10; 1 Thess. 1:9), **who is blessed for ever. Amen**” (no matter how much the heathen dishonor God, His glory has not been diminished and doxology and praise is extended to Creator God – 1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 110:10).

Romans 1:26

“**For this cause** (putting the true God out of their conscience and minds and replacing Him with other false and imaginary gods) **God gave them up unto vile affections** (as in verses 24 and 28, when men persistently abandon God, God will abandon them - God in His permissive and judicial judgment turns people over to their own sinful choices and consequences, removing all moral restraints, to live with passions that are disgraceful and dishonorable, unnatural appetites in which all normal instincts are left behind, degrading their own humanness through the possession of a depraved mind, existing without a moral compass or conscience, essentially experience a curse upon their conscience to live within the lowest point of their own moral depravity – 1 Tim. 4:2): **for even their women** (female homosexuality – lesbianism) **did change** (exchange, as in vs. 25, indicating their homosexuality was not biological but a learned lifestyle based upon their sinful dispositions, and that homosexuality is the ultimate expression of mankind’s moral degeneracy that strips people of their human dignity) **the natural use** (natural in relation to God’s created order and established virtues, not natural to a sinners depraved mind, lust, and emotions, but moving away from what is natural, inborn, and intrinsic heterosexual desires, they willfully exchanged the natural heterosexual impulses for homosexual desires and used their bodies for depraved sexual acts, which were not only a perversion, but inversion of God’s natural order) **into that which is against nature:** (the sin of lesbianism or female homosexuality goes against what is natural or in accord with nature, God’s creative design, the God-given, instinctive, or inborn disposition and constitutional makeup placed within all human beings regarding heterosexuality).

Romans 1:27

“**And likewise also the men** (male homosexuality = pederasty), **leaving the natural use of the woman** (they were not born with homosexual desires, but leaving the God-given natural desires of heterosexuality, they learned this lifestyle, and caused

their bodies to function in debased forms of sexual expression with the same sex), **burned in their lust one toward another** (they also sought this debased lifestyle with inflamed lusts, passions on fire, a type of lust that consumes and overcomes them and which can result in rage when not satisfied – Gen. 19:11); **men with men working that which is unseemly** (shameful, indecent, dishonorable acts of male homosexuality which defies the natural God-given instincts of heterosexuality), **and receiving in themselves** (their own persons) **that recompence** (receiving the due reward or penalty of God’s judgment, which is the expression of His wrath, as in verse 18, for their unorthodox ways of living, which is not some outward physical disease or debilitating problem, but contextually references the inner loss of a person’s sexual identity, when they are by a judicial act of God given over to vile affections and a reprobate mind of homosexuality, as explained in verses 26 and 28) **of their error** (their wandering or straying from the sexual norms of orthodoxy established by God) **which was meet** (the type and degree of God’s judgment or punishment was fitting in that it corresponds exactly to the person’s deviation and deflection from God).

Romans 1:28

“And even as they did not like to retain (hold or possess) **God in their knowledge** (thinking or reasoning as in verse 21), **God gave them over** (by withdrawing His restraining, moral influence within the realm of their inner conscience, God allows the consequences of their sin to take its inevitable, destructive course in their lives, causing people to become totally consumed and controlled by their sin, possessing no moral restraints, and suffering the effects of their sin, ultimately degrading man, debasing the image of God in which he is made, and stripping man of dignity) **to a reprobate mind** (God hands them over to a rejected mind, which is a bent or twisted way of thinking and perverted attitude that rejects God, a mind that is unprincipled and morally abandoned, a mind disapproved and therefore disqualified from understanding or knowing the truth, a mind that is fundamentally unable to think and decide correctly about God and His will, or to comprehend and practice biblical and ethical principles, since the mind has rejected the only way of truth), **to do those things which are not convenient** (the sinful and degrading acts of homosexuality that are not suitable, fitting, or proper from a moral or ethical perspective, in committing this sexual perversion people dishonor their bodies and diminish their human dignity).

Romans 1:29-32

“**Being filled** (the sexual deviants previously mentioned were already full of other sins, along with their diabolical friends, which becomes a further explanation of societal sins that result in abandonment from God and His ways, due to a reprobate mind that rejects God, a mind that is perverted in its reasonings and ambitions) **with all unrighteousness** (that which is morally wrong and unjust and which God brings His wrath against, as stated in verse 18), **fornication** (unlawful sexual immorality in all of its forms, including fornication, adultery, and incest), **wickedness** (iniquity, depravity, the active working of evil), **covetousness** (greed and the incessant desire for more, an excessive desire to possess something that one does not have or should not have – a violation of the 10th commandment), **maliciousness** (the absence of good and promotion of malice or evil, a venomous hatred, an ill-will and desire to harm or commit evil acts against others); **full of envy** (spiteful jealousy of others), **murder** (the premeditated and unlawful taking of human life), **debate** (contention, strife, quarreling), **deceit** (trickery aimed to hurt people), **malignity** (evil-mindedness, maliciousness, possessing an evil disposition, hostility, and bitterness toward others); **whisperers** (secret gossips and slanderers, privately peddling evil reports), **Backbiters** (open gossips or slanderers – those who bad-mouth others to destroy them), **haters of God** (hateful of God’s ways and truth), **despiteful** (insulting and maltreatment toward others, shameful and violent acts committed against others), **proud** (haughty and arrogance, an inflated ego of oneself), **boasters** (braggarts, arrogant promoter and lover of self), **inventors of evil things** (plotters of evil schemes, devisers of mischief and new forms of wickedness, an evil mode of thinking and existence), **disobedient to parents** (rebellious to parental authority – a violation of the fifth commandment), **Without understanding** (foolish and undiscerning from a spiritual, moral, and Biblical perspective – the stupidity of the ungodly), **covenantbreakers** (someone whose word is not good, breaking promises, agreements and contracts whenever it serves one’s purpose, to be untrustworthy and unfaithful), **without natural affection** (a lack of love for family, a hard heart toward kin), **implacable**: (those who do not commit themselves to others, they cannot agree or be reconciled with others, an unforgiving person), **unmerciful** (not showing sympathy and kindness toward others, cruel, vindictive, without pity)

“**Who knowing the judgment of God** (the ordinance, established law, ordained decree of God which has been placed within all heathen humanity, a decree that people innately, intuitively and originally know about God’s existence, their

accountability to His moral laws, and understanding of His disfavor, displeasure, and judgment against sinful activities, but who suppress this decree or truth as stated in verse 18, and willfully and flagrantly engage in these sins anyway), **that they which commit** (continually practice these sins in their unregenerate state – 1 John 3:8-10; John 8:44) **such things are worthy of death** (God can in justice and righteousness condemn them to spiritual death – separation from God in Hell because of their sins – Rom. 6:23), **not only do the same** (practice these sins themselves with callousness toward truth and morality), **but have pleasure in them** (others) **that do them**” (have pleasure also in the moral depravity of others as they engage in the same types of sins, signifying a total defiance against God and unrepentance from the shameful acts of sin).