Romans 1:18-32

Romans 1:18 -
"***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth***."

1:18-3:20 = sin, wrath, judgment

- 1:18-32 = Natural revelation revealed to people in general. (some say only Gentiles are in focus)
- 2:1-3:8 = Special Revelation, recorded Scripture (2:12-13; 2:17-19). Focus is on the Jews

1:17 – the <u>righteousness of God</u> is revealed (Now in time and eschatologically)
1:18 – the <u>wrath of God</u> is revealed (Now in time and eschatologically)

God's judgment in history as time progresses not only includes his active participation, but more so, as described in these verses as "***paradidonai***" – "***to give over***" (1:24)

- 1:24
- 1:26
- 1:28

The object of this divine wrath is:

1. all the godlessness or men – this is discussed in 1:19-27
2. all the wickedness of men – this is developed in 28-32

"Godlessness" – means not having fear or reverence for God.

1. It places man's views and values in contrast with God's plans and purposes.
2. This can not only be passive neglect but must manifest as open rebellion.
3. This is an attitude and an act towards God.

"Wickedness" – is injustice and is expressed in the way men treat each other.
This is an attitude and an act toward mankind.

From the giving of the Law of Moses through Jesus teaching these are the focus of right living:

1. Fear God
2. Kindness to Men

"The truth in unrighteousness hold" - την αληθειαν εν αδικια κατεχοντων
Suppression of the truth shows that they have knowledge of the truth.
This will be explained next in 1:19.
Truth is:

1. Absolute and independent of people's support
2. Will result in action and lifestyle when believed.
3. To suppress the truth will result in false (wrong) actions

Romans 1:19 -
"***For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them***. "

Point:

1) men suppress the truth through unrighteous thoughts and unrighteous actions
2) people who suffer God's wrath are responsible for the wrath they receive

Four basic arguments for the absolute need for God to exist:

1. **Creation**
    a. Since there is a universe, it had to have a creator.
    b. You cannot have a watch without a watch maker
    c. Paul uses this in Romans 1:19-20
    d. Plato developed this as the immovable mover.
    e. Follow the Kalam Cosmological Argument
2. **Design**– all design implies a creator
3. **Moral law**– describes what ought to be seen among men but is not always there.
    a. It is a standard of behavior that exists because of God.
4. **Being**– The human concept of perfection exists, yet it is not seen in creation.
    a. Since we strive for perfection in all areas but have never seen it then perfection must exist.
    b. The concept of God encompasses the concept of perfection.

Romans 1:20
"***For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse***."

God's invisible qualities have been revealed through the physical world.
This way natural man can understand qualities of the immortal God.
His invisible attributes are summed up in two phases:

a) **"*his eternal power*"** – he is divine, he is beyond our universe, he is the creator, he is the judge, he is the alpha and the omega

b) "***his divine nature***" – his character of righteousness, holiness, justice, love are all revealed in the creation. His Reality. His Truth.

Summary:
Section One 1:18-20 – God's existence, his righteousness and his wrath have and are revealed.

Section Two 1:21-31 – Describes how people suppress and exchange God's revelation of existence, his righteousness and his wrath (judgment)

Verses	**People do:**	**God does:**
1:21-24	People "*exchange*" the truth for idols	God "*hands them over*"
1:25-26a	People "*exchange*" the truth for a lie	God "*hands them over*"
1:26b-31	People "*exchange*" natural sexual practices for unnatural	God "*hands them over*"

Section Three 1:32 - Combines 1:18-20 with 21-31 to form the conclusion:

- They know requirements
- They know the penalty
- They continue to sin
- They approve of those who join with them

Romans 1:21-
"*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened*."

"**having known"** in the sense of general revelation

Romans 1:22-23 –
"*Claiming to be wise, they became fools*, *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things*."

Romans 1:24 –
"*Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves*,…"

Sexual impurity is mentioned here and again in 1:26, 27. In both cases "God gave them over".
Why is sexual impurity mentioned twice?
In 1:24 it is in reference to cultic practices in pagan temples that goes along with idol worship. In 1:26, 27 it refers to immorality in society and culture in ordinary life.

This is an example of false religious beliefs and false religious practices infecting the lives of the people and destroying their culture.

Romans 1:25 –

"*because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen*."

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 this same pattern repeats itself for the final time.
It involves idol worship, honor of a man above God, a strong delusion, God giving the people over to their sin and ultimately destruction for the people involved.

1:26 –

"*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;"*

	1223 [e]	3778 [e]	3860 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1519 [e]	3806 [e]	819 [e]	3588 [e]	5037 [e]	1063 [e]
	Dia	touto	paredōken	autous	ho	Theos	eis	pathē	atimias	hai	te	gar
26	Διὰ	τοῦτο	παρέδωκεν	αὐτοὺς	ὁ	Θεὸς	εἰς	πάθη	ἀτιμίας .	αἵ	τε	γὰρ
	because of	this	gave up	them	-	God	to	passions	of dishonor	-	both	indeed
	Prep	DPro-ANS	V-AIA-3S	PPro-AM3P	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	N-ANP	N-GFS	Art-NFP	Conj	Conj

2338 [e]	846 [e]	3337 [e]	3588 [e]	5446 [e]	5540 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	3844 [e]	5449 [e]	
thēleiai	autōn	metēllaxan	tēn	physikēn	chrēsin	eis	tēn	para	physin	
θήλειαι	αὐτῶν ,	μετήλλαξαν	τὴν	φυσικὴν	χρῆσιν ,	εἰς	τὴν	παρὰ	φύσιν .	
females	of them	changed	the	natural	use	into	that	contrary to	nature	
Adj-NFP	PPro-GM3P	V-AIA-3P	Art-AFS	Adj-AFS	N-AFS	Prep	Art-AFS	Prep	N-AFS	

"Women" is the Greek word "***thelus***" that means "female".
It is not the word "***gune***" /gun –ay/ which is usually used for "women".

In 1:27 the word for "man" is not "***anthropos***" or "***aner***" which refers to a male member of the human race but is the word "***arsen***" which refers simply to a male as distinguished from a female.

This is because the only distinction these people make is the sex.
A true man is a man for more than the fact he is male.
A true woman is a woman for more than the fact she is female.
But, these people are only distinguishable from each other because they are physically of a certain sex. Otherwise, their manhood and womanhood has been destroyed and they are indistinguishable.

Because of their actions in verse 24 and 25 God gave them over again.

The first time he gave them over to false religion or false philosophy,
They did not reject the lies of false religion and false philosophy but instead embraced them.
Because they embraced the lie God gave them over to the fruit of those false views which is immorality.

The Pattern:

1. Reject the Obvious Truth (1:18-20)
2. Replace the Emptiness (Vacuum) for false philosophies (1:21-23)
3. Engage in worship of idol and advancement of false philosophy (1:24-25)
4. Incorporate the values and practice the morals and ethics of the idols in society.
5. They are left to live without restrain of the sin nature.

Only God's grace, God's Spirit and God's word can save a man's spirit, soul and body from the decaying effects of the sin nature.

If man rejects the revelation of God he is doomed to the sin nature.

1:27 –

"*and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error*."



"Burned" or "inflamed" is the word for "burned out" which refers to excessive lust which results in being consumption by it (or, "burned out").

- "Kaio" means burn, or to light.
- Here the word is "***exkaio***".
- The "ex-" prefix intensifies the word.

"Indecent" means "want of form, disfigurement, deformed, one's nakedness, shame." "due penalty" means "recompense" or the "reward given"

Man is not presented here as a victim.

- Man is responsible for his own over throw because he rejected the answer.
- Man rejected the light, no matter how small it was, in the dark cave of sin.
- Sin comes from the nature of man.
- Man's judgment is perverted.
- Man is then abandoned to that perverted mind. (This is the punishment, or retribution
- The result: man is destroyed by his own actions

1:28-32

Describes the total corruption of any human relationship among men who have abandoned God.

1:28 –

"And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done."

	2532 [e]	2531 [e]	3756 [e]	1381 [e]		3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2192 [e]	1722 [e]	1922 [e]		3860 [e]	846 [e]
	Kai	kathōs	ouk	edokimasan		ton	Theon	echein	en	epignōsei		paredōken	autous
28	Καὶ	καθὼς	οὐκ	ἐδοκίμασαν	,	τὸν	Θεὸν	ἔχειν	ἐν	ἐπιγνώσει	,	παρέδωκεν	αὐτοὺς
	And	as	not	they did see fit		-	God	to have	in [their]	knowledge		gave up	them
	Conj	Adv	Adv	V-AIA-3P		Art-AMS	N-AMS	V-PNA	Prep	N-DFS		V-AIA-3S	PPro-AM3P

3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1519 [e]	96 [e]	3563 [e]	4160 [e]	3588 [e]	3361 [e]	2520 [e]	
ho	Theos	eis	adokimon	noun	poiein	ta	mē	kathēkonta	
ὁ	Θεὸς	εἰς	ἀδόκιμον	νοῦν	, ποιεῖν	τὰ	μὴ	καθήκοντα	;
-	God	to	a depraved	mind	to do	things	not	being proper	
Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	Adj-AMS	N-AMS	V-PNA	Art-ANP	Adv	V-PPA-ANP	

Notice: Man did not "approve" of God, so God gave them over to a mind that was not "approved." (Notice underlined Greek words)

"***dokimazo***" means to approve or to test.
The human race had put God to the test and did not approve,
thus the word "***edokimasan***" or "***adokimzo***". They disapproved of God.

"Not Fitting" was a technical term for the stoics.

This is the third time that "God gave them over."
1st time he gave them over to the lie and to the practices of idol worship (1:24)
2nd time he gave them over to lusts and immoral acts (1:26)
3rd time he gave them over to a depraved mind. (1:28)

1- Reject God
2- Accept lie
3- Given to lie to practice it
4- Given over to lusts
5- Given over to a depraved mind
6- Result is personal, family, social and cultural chaos

1:29-31 –

"*They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless*."

"Being Filled" is a perfect participle.
The perfect tense means this is completed action in the past but yet having present results in present. Those who "disapproved" of God and exchanged the truth for a lie in the past are now in the present completely filled with these 21 sins.

It is difficult to find structure in this list.
Many words overlap in meaning and many are synonyms.

<u>The best break down is this. The list falls into three parts</u>

1. "**filled with all manner of**":
    a. Unrighteousness
    b. Evil
    c. Greed
    d. Wickedness
2. **full of**:
    a. envy
    b. murder
    c. strife
    d. deceit
    e. malice
3. (***the rest***)
    a. Gossips
    b. Maligners
    c. Haters of God
    d. Proud
    e. Arrogant
    f. Devisers of evil
    g. Disobedient to parents
    h. Without understanding
    i. Without faithfulness
    j. Without affection
    k. Without mercy

A General Sequence

1. First Four are general nouns
2. Next five are about envy and the result of envy
3. The final twelve:
    a. Two words about slander
    b. Four about arrogance
    c. Six unrelated
        i. These are basically social evils
        ii. They are not sexual sins
        iii. They are not sins against God
4. The point of the list is to show that the result of being given to **a depraved mind is the destruction of society by man**. This is damaged mankind destroying other people.

Romans 1:32 -

"***Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them***."

"God's righteous decree" is not linked by Paul to the Law of Moses but again to general revelation referred to in 1:18

The Light will draw all men!

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:33)

But, will all men come to the Light?

1. The Light of Creation
2. The Light of Conscience
3. The Light of Christ - the person, the Word, the Gospel

You are without excuse before God.