

051924

**"Humanness Lost, Part 1"**

*Romans 1:18-20*

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**Background**

We return to Romans this week where we find Paul beginning the body of the letter. Suppose someone says to you, "I have good news and bad news for you. Which one do you want first?" Don't we typically say we want the bad news first? This is exactly where Paul goes. He'll share the bad news first - for three chapters! In these texts, we find the universal sinfulness of God's image-bearers. The human race is in big trouble, and we can't fix it on our own. It's much worse than we could ever imagine. It's really, really bad news, which is why we need the

Good News. Join us this Sunday as we begin to explore the reason, we all need *The Gospel for all Seasons*.

**Sermon Text:** *Romans 1:18-20 (NIV)*

*<sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

### 2. Sunday Questions:

1. Comment on Shawn's questions, "What are we, and why are we the way we are?" "What does it mean to be truly human?"

2. As humans are made in the "imago dei," how do you reflect God, represent God in the world, and have responsibility according to the specifications given to you? How do you like Shawn's description that "the manufacturer specifications for being human" are found in God's love letter to us called the Bible? Is it true for you that the Bible defines how you function best in His creation.

3. Along the theme of the manufacturer specifications, how do you explain Shawn's point of view that every specification God has given us in the Bible flows from one command and only one in Gen 2:17, "*...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.*"?

What is the truth being revealed about human nature, as evidenced in the reaction of Adam and Eve to that command? How should we respond as that command is repeated to every image-bearer every moment of every day? Do we

think of the consequences of daily decision to live wisely with the creator God, or not?

What is the truth being revealed about God's love in this command? Are you surprised to know that, "God tells us this because He wants us to truly live? He loves us so much; he tells us how to live! True life is found in dependence on Him."

4. In today's verses, how do you explain the three reasons humans have fallen into darkness, based on the three key points about the revelation of the knowledge of God. *18 [For] the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

-Everyone in the world knows about God.

-Humanity suppresses the knowledge of God.

-God's wrath is being revealed.

5. Do you agree that the core issue of suppression the knowledge of God is not intellectual but moral? Explain.

6. Why is it that God's wrath is good news in the world at any time in history?

7. In what ways can we become truly human when we follow Jesus' example?

"For you are a glorious creature, more magnificent than you will ever know. But, God has made you to be dependent on Him for life. You are free, but you are designed to be a dependent being. Do not try to be your own god. For all of your magnificence, you cannot be your own god. Live in radical dependence on Him. This is how you will function best with your one and only beautiful life in this amazing world."