

BIBLE & BAGEL

Romans – Our Common Faith

14 December 2015

The gospel is not all good news; there is an element of bad news, there has to be otherwise it would not be good news. When we share the gospel we must present both the bad and the good news otherwise it will be incomplete. We would be giving people just another option and not the “only” option.

Romans 1:18-23

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. NKJV

The Apostle now begins to get into the actual message, after saying that salvation is by faith he begins to explain why we need God's salvation. He says, it is because God's judgment is coming and it will be upon all forms of ungodliness and unrighteousness. He uses the word wrath which means anger that is violent.

Ungodliness has a few meanings:

- Not believing in God
- Evil behaviour
- Mocking God and his people (church)
- Believing in God but living as if you don't.

So this implies that both unbelievers and believers can be guilty of ungodliness.

Unrighteousness means unjust or immoral.

As the context here is judgment of unbelievers the Bible tells us that God will judge people who are doing things that are against God's character and standards.

Then he says that that God invisible attributes are clearly seen through creation, God left a witness of His existence in everything we see around us and so man has no excuse to say that he did not know God exists. Mankind in our stubbornness refused to acknowledge God, and give Him glory for His works replaced Him with images (idols) made to look like people, animals, fish etc. God will judge the world because of this. People who trusted their human wisdom and do this are actually fools in God's eyes.

It is interesting to compare this word which was written in the first century AD to what is happening today, mankind refuses to acknowledge the creator and in their human wisdom are also trying to recreate creation to prove their big bang theory. All this is to justify their own sin and gain freedom to do what they want.



Our task in sharing the gospel is to warn people of the coming judgment; this is very rare these days, we like to give people a positive message and make people feel good, if there is no warning of judgment however, people may believe for the wrong reasons. They may believe because they think that God will give them what they want and that their lives will be all rosy and smooth sailing. Then when hard times befall them they may fall away like the seed that fell among the stones and thornsⁱ that Jesus spoke about.

We also need to watch ourselves to ensure that we are constantly living the life that we are called to, a life in right relationship with God, a life that displays the character and standards of God, we would not want to be classified as ungodly would we? May God give us the grace to live as we are called, godly people who are called saints.

ⁱ Matthew 13:18 - 23

