

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Romans 1:18-25

July 22, 2018

It is profoundly wicked to ignore your Creator. Lord, save us!

- We learn, know, and confess: No one is saved without faith in Jesus
 - ♦ Only Jesus can and did pay for all sin. Only Jesus can give eternal life.
- Then the day comes when we think of a child who never heard of Jesus.
 - ♦ Really, Lord? But how is that fair?
 - ♦ Jesus: It's fair and right. Go read Paul. You'll see.

Acts 17 - Athens: ²⁴ **The God who made the universe and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth.** He doesn't live in shrines made by humans, ²⁵ and he isn't served by humans as if he needed anything. He gives everyone life, breath, and everything they have. ²⁶ From one man he has made every nation of humanity to live all over the earth. He has given them the seasons of the year and the boundaries within which to live. ²⁷ He has **done this so that they would look for God, somehow reach for him, and find him.** In fact, he is never far from any one of us. ²⁸ Certainly, we live, move, and exist because of him. As some of your poets have said, 'We are God's children.'

It is profoundly wicked to ignore your Creator.

Our text: A series of facts (aorist) connected with causal conjunctions

❖ The facts about God

- God designed his creation to make his *invisible qualities plainly visible*.
 - ♦ Out in the open - right where each one is - constantly - perceivable
 - ♦ Creation's order, complexity, regularity, beauty, interdependency
 - ♦ Look at a flower, a puppy or kitten - a new born baby - Creator!
 - ♦ *invisible qualities: eternal power and divine nature*
 - *power* - to work great, to small - to create life
 - *eternal* - he had to preexist his creation
 - He's *divine* - God: Supreme Being, wise, creative - complex & beauty
- It's clear: the Maker of heaven and earth exists - your Creator
 - ♦ **so people are without excuse** - everyone should know there's a Creator
 - ♦ Everyone should be seeking: *I must know him and treat him as God.*
 - ♦ There are no innocent people. Even children can sense this.

❖ The facts about those who ignore their Creator

- *godlessness* - **attitude of disrespect** for God, the Divine Creator
- *suppress the truth by their wickedness* - to self and others
 - ♦ *If I acknowledge him, I owe him my life, my devotion. He's God!*
 - ♦ Some: avoid their fear and guilt - live in denial - don't face facts

- To fulfill their perceived need for reverence, worship - create false gods
 - ♦ Add insult: rob God's glory, honor, praise, thanks - give to another
 - ♦ A god that's a bad lifeless copy of something the real Creator made
 - ♦ Ignored is bad. This is worse! His anger is righteous.
- ❖ God's wrath is revealed in handing them over to their own devices
 - Claiming wisdom - blind self and others - twisting thinking
 - So blinded by darkened hearts they can't see God's clear light.
 - Turning inward - devoted to deep desires - pleasures of a clueless heart
 - ♦ Following a blinding obsession, taken captive, taken in
 - ♦ Degrading their bodies together - consequences - God's wrath revealed
 - Obsessed by things created, ignoring the Creator and his design/purpose
 - ♦ Takes farther and farther away from being blessed - deep into cursed
 - ♦ *every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.* Gen. 8:21
 - *evil* = ignoring your Creator. Making something else your *Life*.

It is profoundly wicked to ignore your Creator.

❖ This explains a lot!

- History. Trends: The more the Creator is removed, less worship - open immorality it is not just tolerated, but glorified, promoted, called good
- For us believers: explain our own struggle with sinful desires, foolish thoughts, justifications that lead us into temptation - our sinful nature

It is profoundly wicked to ignore your Creator. Lord, save us!

- ♦ Take time to see what God reveals in Creation - our Creator God
- ♦ Stand in awe of him, give thanks, give self - reflect worth put on him
- ♦ Only the Bible reveals who the Creator is - Holy Triune God
- ♦ Only the Bible reveals reconciliation with Creator - *Our Father...*
 - ¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes — to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* ¹⁷ *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."*
- ♦ Only the gospel can break in and rescue people - to know Creator
- ♦ Lord, let your gospel daily break into my life to give you glory.
 - rescue me to live a life that worships and values you as my God.

It is profoundly wicked to ignore your Creator. Lord, save us!