

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

In the late 1700s, the great philosopher, Immanuel Kant, set out to dismantle the classical philosophical basis for belief in God. Many then and since have agreed that he did an admirable job. Yet at the end of his studies and writings, he said there were only two things he could not dismiss: “the starry host above and the moral law within.” The starry host above and the moral law within: creation and conscience declare the glory of God. Centuries earlier, the apostle Paul made a similar argument. Over the next two weeks, we will look at what scripture says about the universal testimony of creation and conscience.

Monday – The “W” Word

“Wrath’ while a bit old-fashion, preserves the more objective sense of the Greek word... God’s reaction to sin is not the ‘anger’ of an emotional person; it is the necessary reaction of a holy God to sin.”

Doug Moo - NIB Application Commentary: Romans

1. Please read Romans 1:16-23. How is the idea in verses 18 and 19 (wrath) connected with the theme of verse 17 (righteousness)?
2. According to Doug Moo (quote above), do you think wrath is motivated by ego or justice?
3. Why do you think Paul uses the word “revealed” in verse 18?
4. Check out Ephesians 2:1-5. How are these passages related?

Tuesday – The Heavens Declare

“The study of God’s revelation of himself to humanity has been classified into two ways: general revelation and specific revelation. General revelation is God’s communication of himself to all persons in all places... (The person who views a beautiful sunset and the biology student dissecting a complex organism are exposed to indications of God’s greatness)... By special revelation we mean God’s manifestation of himself (through Scripture)... enabling those persons to have a relationship with him.”

Millard Erickson - Christian Theology

1. Please read Psalm 19 (if you are able, walk outside and read it.) Compare verses 1-6 and verses 7-11. How are they different? How do verses 1-6 lead to 7-11?
2. How are these verses connected to Romans 1:18-23?
3. What does the psalmist conclude is the appropriate response to God’s revelation through what he made and what he said?

Point of Prayer - Spend some time praying through verses 12-14. Note: Many people find praying through Scripture profitable. Try reading the words slowly to God to get you started and then expanding on the ideas as you talk with him, or try to read Psalm 19 out loud and worship in your heart.

Wednesday – Because He Made All of It

1. Please Read Isaiah 40:22-31, 42:5-8 and 45:7-13. To which of God’s actions or roles does Isaiah refer in these verses?
2. Why do you think he keeps bringing it up? How are God’s creation and human conscience related?
3. How is this connected to Romans 1:18-23?

Thursday – Excuses, Excuses

1. Please read Romans 18-23. Some people are quick to make excuses for their actions. What is the most common excuse you give people? What is the most common excuse you give God?
2. What does Paul say is the appropriate response to the revelation of God’s invisible qualities?
3. Do you have accomplishments that you have not given him credit (i.e. glory) or thanks for?

Point of Prayer - Take some time to repent of excuses, and thankfully credit God with the things he has done for you.

Friday – Deceitful Wisdom

“The first sign of the creeping death that spreads upward from twisted thinking to darkened heart to the rest of the human life... is the failure of worship.” N.T. Wright - Romans for Everyone

1. Please read Romans 1:18-23. Note the way Paul speaks about wisdom. He suggests that wisdom may be easily misdiagnosed. According to Paul, what paves the road to foolishness?
2. How do Paul’s definitions of wisdom and foolishness compare to those promoted by your peers, teachers or children’s teachers, or your Christian friends?
3. What is the result of foolishness? For what do you exchange the glory of God?