

Hearing the Song (Rom 1:19-20)

I. 5 Statements – Awake, Arise, Count it all joy, No eye has seen, the eyes of the Lord.

Is. 51:17 **Wake** yourself, **wake** yourself,

Is. 60:1 **Arise**, shine, for your light has come, and the **glory** of the LORD has risen upon you.

Jas 1:2 **Count** it all joy,

1Cor 2:9 “What no eye..., ear..., heart ...,

God has prepared for those who love him”—

2Chr 16:9 The eyes of the Lord Ps 34:15 on the righteous

II. Gospel — Power to Save — [slide 1]

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it** is the power of God for (*εἰς*) salvation **to** everyone who believes, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. 17 For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith **for** faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

III. Wrath— Suppression of Truth — Evidence

A. Wrath against Suppression of Evidence — **The Song!**

Rom. 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.

WRATH of GOD — Not emotional, but a disposition of indignation, allowing sinners to sin...

Suppress (hold down) **the truth**

2Pet 3:5 For they **deliberately overlook** this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God.

B. Not Wanting to See...

19 For *what can be known about God* is **plain** to them, because God has **shown** it to them.

EVIDENT

MADE MANIFEST

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. **(Can be intellectually understood)**

Psalm 19:1-6

Christ is **mysteriously present** in the entire created order.

Acts 17:28 in Him we live, move, have our being

C. The Disease — Losing the SONG [slide 2]

Rom 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. **[slide 3]**

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and **exchanged** the **glory** of the immortal God for **images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God ***gave them up*** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, **to** the ***dishonoring of their bodies*** among themselves,...

LOSING THE SONG – felt absence of God is a defining feature of our day.

1. Belief in God is **unwelcome**, **unnecessary**, and **unimaginable**. God is **unwelcome** in the boardroom, bedroom, courtroom, classroom, and (even) in many of our churches. **[slide 4]**
2. Belief in God is **unnecessary** to make sense of the world. Science basis of hope and scientists are the new priests, prophets, and kings of the modern world. **[slide 5]**
3. Belief in God **unimaginable**. Pain and evil used as proof of God's absence rather than for His necessity. **[slide 6]**

Did NOT honor or give thanks (love – basis of being, knowing, growing). [slide 7]

IV. Finding LOVE

Humans were created to love and honor. (*Imago Dei*). We love before we believe. We love before we think. Lost from perfect love, we live our lives seeking *happiness, return to Eden, communion with love*

Three Guides in finding LOVE

Imagination — Beauty [slide 8]

Reason — Truth [slide 9]

Conscience — Goodness [slide 10]

A. Imagination — BEAUTY — the song around us

The moonlit snow... “bliss” The encounter with “sounds of French horns,” A memory of a memory.

However, we do not want merely to see beauty,

CS Lewis “We want something else which can hardly be put into words—**to be united with the beauty we see**, to pass *into it*, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it.” (*Weight of Glory*, 42.)

We **long for things the material world cannot provide**,... God and a deep spiritual reality are still there. He didn’t leave. He still upholds us, even if we refuse to acknowledge him.

The **signs of transcendence are everywhere**.... experiences of beauty, communion, laughter, and love, ... help us to understand and imagine a world of deep meaning and the promise of a day when all will be set right again

What holds us back? *pride, greed (covetousness), lust, envy, gluttony, anger, sloth.*

SLOTH — NOT – A hairy, long-toed sloth hanging from a branch, with headphones on, listening to “sloth motivational tapes”: “Relax, take your time, what’s the hurry? Life goes on whether you’re asleep or not.” — Rubes 2003

Acedia or lack of care. Neglect of duties of Love. Laziness and workaholicism are both symptoms of sloth. Not working at relationships. OPPOSITE of DILIGENCE Latin **diligere** [slide 11]

Make the most of every opportunity,

Col 4:5 NIV Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity.** **6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Outdo one another in showing honor!

Rom 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another in showing honor.** **11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,** serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Personal illustration of sloth... letting the relationship slip. Happens in marriages, friendships, families, businesses.

Luke 3:16 ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and **fire.**

B. Reason — That which is TRUE — perception of the song

Reasoning from **DESIRE** — By **examining & reflecting on** the nature of our deepest desire, along with the human predicament, we can even formulate an argument that God exists. Whenever humans have a natural **desire** for something, there is a corresponding **object that satisfies the desire.** Longing for joy, transcendence. Ducks desire to swim because there is water;

We can look for love in the wrong places... “Fountain of Youth”
Sex outside of holy covenant

Our desires are **INTENTIONAL.** They are **FOR** things.

C. Conscience — That which is GOOD — the song within us

Longing for happiness; Where desire takes us... things that cannot satisfy the conscience.

RECOGNITION OF LOVE DELIVERS!

Michael Phelps — 28 Medals; 5 Olympics. 2012 Olympics. DUI's.
2014 Suicidal. Emptiness [slide 12]

Ray Lewis — Superbowl MVP 2000 [slide 13 &14]

Purpose Driven Life – Phelps found the song [slide 15]

Michael and Nicole have 3 Sons.

The disease - Naturalism - here is nothing that is divine, or sacred, or worthy of worship.

This is **boring**. A disenchanting world is **without meaning, purpose, or objective values**. There is **no deep story** that governs the cosmos or our lives. There is no Author, no play. Birth, life, death—that's it. No Painter inside the paint, Architect inside the plan...

IV. The Cure — Living in LOVE – *I am what I love*

1John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another,... 16b God is love.
Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him.

Beauty, Truth, & Goodness are *in Him*. Imagination, Reason, & Conscience are **AWAKENED**, COME ALIVE in His Presence.

HONOR, GIVE THANKS. A PEOPLE OF WORSHIP.

Psa. 100:4

Psa. 22:3 Yet you are holy, **enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

[slide 16]

4 In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

Zeal for Love

Eyes – mystery & wonder Ears – song Honor Thanks