

Truth and Consequences (Rom 1:21-29)

Sons of Issachar

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

I. 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.”

The Good News restores our relationship with God!

II. 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

Reason — Truth

Conscience — Goodness

A. Imagination — BEAUTY [slide 2]

We **long for things the material world cannot provide**,... God didn't leave... The **signs of transcendence are everywhere**... experiences of beauty, communion, laughter, and love, ... imagine a world of deep meaning and the promise of a day when all will be set right again.... Deeper explanations

What holds us back?

B. Reason — That which is TRUE — reality [slide 3]

By **examining & reflecting on** the nature of our **deepest longings**, ... natural **desire** for something, ... a corresponding **object that satisfies the desire**. Longing for joy, transcendence. Ducks desire to swim because there is water... Desires are **INTENTIONAL**. They are **FOR** things.

C. Conscience — That which is GOOD — the guide home. [slide 4]

III. Suppression of Truth — Denying the Evidence

A. Wrath against Suppression of Evidence — [slide 5]

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**.

B. Not Wanting to See...

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

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**)

C. Looking for God Substitutes — Denying Source & Meaning [slide 5]

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 6]

- 22 Claiming to be wise, they *became fools*, (senseless, futile)
- 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God **for images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. *IDOLS*

Here is the root expression of idolatry — reduction, less than. “nothing but” the product of matter and chance, evolution, (Francis Crick — “nothing but a pack of neurons. Nicholas Humphreys - “consciousness is an illusion.”) Carl Sagan — The Cosmos is *all there is*, or was, or ever will be.” Berenstain Bears — “Nature is *all there is*, or was, or ever will be.”

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

24, 26, 28. He gives them up, but doesn't GIVE UP on them. Just the opposite! [slide 7]

- 25 because they exchanged the TRUTH about God **for** a lie and *worshiped and served* the **creature** rather than the **Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Bad exchange! Downgrade from Creator to creature, from TRUTH to a lie — Be like God **on our own...** our own master, happiness apart from God. ... **It doesn't work.**

If we don't worship God, we worship idols [slide 8]

- 26 For this reason God *gave them up to dishonorable passions*. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;
- 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.
- 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God *gave them up to a debased mind to* do what ought not to be done.

29 They were **filled** with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are **full** of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.

How did we get here?

Happiness is elusive [slide 9]

“Nearly all that we call human history—(money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery) — [is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” –Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 49.

Did NOT honor or give thanks [slide 10]

Turning away and consequences

1. **Claiming to be wise** → **Fools (22)**
2. **Exchanged** divine glory → **images (that become idols) (23)**
3. **God gave them up (permitted) He didn't give up on them!**
in the lust of their hearts to impurity
to dishonoring the body (24)
to debased mental perception (28)
4. **Exchanged** the TRUTH about God → a lie (25) leading to disordering of desires (26-27)
5. **Didn't value a knowledge God (28)**
loss of mental perceptive capacity.
6. **Filled with frustration (v. 29)**

IV. Consequences — Reduction to Destruction

STRATEGY: Unpack the lie → How to **identify the IDOL and the REDUCTION in every lie.**

When we reject the Creator we replace TRUTH with a lie.

What has replaced God as the self-existent, eternal reality that is the origin of everything else? Pantheism (a force), Materialism (matter & energy, physics, chemistry, biology, humanity)

Truth – **God** created the world according to His own design and purpose ... Mind precedes matter, shaping and directing the development of the material world.

Lie – **DARWIN** reversed that order: In his theory, mind emerges very late in evolutionary history, as a product of purely natural forces. Mind is not a fundamental, creative force in the universe but merely an evolutionary by-product.

**“Nothing but...” “you and me baby ain’t nothing but mammals”
The Bloodhound Gang.**

MARX – Dialectic materialism (Hegel) Production–Economics

Cultural Marxism. CRT. Feminism, Genderism, Environmentalism, Nationalism, ...

Joseph **Stalin**:

A startling dialogue from when the young Stalin was a seminary student, studying to become a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church:

As one of his friends relates, they were discussing religion:

“Joseph heard me out, and after a moment’s silence, said: ““You know, they are fooling us, there is no God. . . .’

“I was astonished at these words. I had never heard anything like it before.

“How can you say such things?” I exclaimed.

“I’ll lend you a book to read; it will show you that the world and all living things are quite different from what you imagine, and all this talk about God is sheer nonsense,” Joseph said.

“What book is that? I enquired.

“Darwin. You must read it,” Joseph impressed on me.”

We all know what happened after that: Having become an atheist, Stalin went on to murder literally millions of his own people in his attempt to construct an officially atheistic state.

V. Ambassadors of Christ (way truth life)

STRATEGY: *[Look for the internal contradictions.](#)*

Francis Crick - "You, your joys, sorrows, memories and ambitions, are nothing but a mass of neurons and their associated molecules." <how could a mass of neurons know reality?>

Richard Dawkins — "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose." – Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 4.

Use those to build bridges...

MARKS OF DESIGN

Main areas where exciting new evidence for design is being uncovered:

- (1) world of the cell (biochemistry) irreducible complexity
- (2) the universe (cosmology) fine tuning, expansion
- (3) the structure of DNA (biological information) language!

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

- (1)—origin of the universe
- (2)—origin of life
- (3)—origin of human consciousness.

Use those to dismantle strongholds...

[2Cor 10:4](#) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [5](#) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

Pray for Sons of Issachar Grace upon God's People.

[1Chr 12:32](#) Of Issachar, men who had **understanding** of the **times**, to **know what** Israel **ought to do**, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command. (Knew understanding; recognized the appropriate needed actions)

VI. Finding Bold LOVE —

A. We are immersed in an idolatrous culture. The roots are found in Darwinian Evolution — it views the world as material and natural. Pervasive – Science, medicine, psychology, economics, sociology, education, law, politics, morality

B. The Cure — Living in LOVE – *I become what I love (Love-Belief-Knowledge)*

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.

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 11]

Impartation — Zeal for Love and Strategic Perception of Truth