

Chapter 4

Intuitive Knowledge of God

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

In the last lesson we focused on the abandonment wrath of God upon a society, a nation, a culture, and individuals. Furthermore, as you read through Romans 1, you understand there are identifying words that point out there is a progression to God's wrath because of the progression of sin. In verse 19 and 21, there is the word "*because*", in verse 26 there is "*for this cause*", and in verse 24, there is "*wherefore*". There is cause and effect throughout Romans 1, as the consequence of sin and this wrath of God.

There is a reason for this abandoning wrath of God. In verse 18, Paul stated a practice of sinful man. He describes their character as ungodliness and unrighteousness. Then he speaks of something they do. They hold the truth in unrighteousness. It's already been said that the word "*hold*" means to suppress. They attack the truth, they attempt to suppress the truth.

Then in verse 19, comes the word "*because.*" Paul is going to give us the reason that men suppress the truth, the reason they hate the truth, "*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.*" The *them* is referring to those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Continuing in verse 20, "*For the invisible things of him [Refers to God.] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his [Refers to God.] eternal power and Godhead; so that they [Refers to those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, all the unsaved.] are without excuse.*"

I believe the BIBLE teaches that there is an intuitive knowledge of God that mankind possesses. It is not a saving knowledge, of course, but nevertheless, there is an intuitive knowledge that mankind has of God. In Romans 1:19 it says, "*... that which may be known of God is manifest [Is evidenced.] in them;*" In other words, inside of them there is an intuitive knowledge of God. We must be clear that this knowledge does not save anyone and this knowledge as we

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

see here, does not make anyone right. But people are born with an intuitive knowledge of God. Man would say that it is knowledge of a “higher being”. Man has that instinct within them.

Looking at the first part of verse 19, “... *that which may be known of God ...*” We all know there are things that can be known of God. The scriptures teach us everything we need to know about God, but not everything about God. That is not possible. God is infinite and there is no way that a book can teach us everything about God. But, the BIBLE does teach you and I everything we need to know about God. We must realize that there are things about God that we do not know. Of those things we do not know about Him, none contradict what is made manifest in His word. There is a point we come to in our life, that when it comes to God, we just do not know everything. But, we know it lines up with everything in His word.

There are things that can be known of God. Some of those things have been communicated to mankind in general. I have heard preachers try to explain John 1:9 away. You can not explain it away because there is an intuitive knowledge in man of God. In John 1:9 “[*That*] *was the true Light, [Referring to Jesus Christ.] which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*” Man is totally depraved and this does not lessen his depravity. However, every one enters this life not with a spark of goodness, which is what the arminian teaches using this verse, but every man comes into this life with an intuitive knowledge of God. They know. There is something in them that tells them there is someone higher than them.

Romans 2:14-15 says, “*For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, [This means that everyone obeys the law to some degree.] these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew [Which manifests.] the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and [their] thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing*

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

one another;" The key here is *"their conscience also bearing witness."*

I could go into great length on the conscience of man. While not true in every case, when someone does wrong, why do most try to hide it? Because they have a conscience. In other words, there is that light that is in them. They don't know who it is, but they have this sense there is someone higher than them. There is God. They may not put it in those words. But, there is a general knowledge of God in the conscience of man.

Paul goes on to say in Romans 1:19, *"... for God [Or because God] hath shewed [it] unto them."* God has shown Himself unto man, but not in a saving way. God has made man to have a general knowledge of Himself. It's an external, a general knowledge of God. We have to keep stressing that it is not a saving knowledge. It is a knowledge that is mostly in the conscience of man.

From Romans 1:21, Paul mentions this general knowledge, *"Because that, when they knew God, ..."* They don't know much about Him, but they know there is a God. In verse 28, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, ..."* Mankind has this intuitive knowledge of God but does not like it, because it is that knowledge that causes him to feel guilt. It's a knowledge that to some degree binds and they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.

Again, having a general knowledge of God, when you look up in the night sky and see the stars and the moon, common sense tells you someone put them there. That's a general knowledge. Why do the evolutionist and the like explain it away? Because they do not like to retain that knowledge in themselves. This is what Romans 1, is teaching us. They have this intuitive knowledge, but they don't want it. They start to explain away things.

Notice in verse 21 what they do with this knowledge, *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God,"* They knew God, but they may refer to Him as "the man upstairs". To call God something like that is to *"glorify*

Him not as God." Oh, they know someone is up there, but they think, "the man upstairs", which glorifies Him not as God. Why is it when man curses, they use God's name? How does he even know to use God's name? Because there is this intuitive knowledge. When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God.

I believe that a lot of the religious world does not have a spiritual knowledge of God, but rather an intuitive knowledge of Him that they have built upon with their own theology. That is why the majority of the religious world glorifies Him not as God. In most pulpits today, God is not glorified as God, but rather He is demeaned. Whether they are of the religious world and build upon the intuitive knowledge of God or they of others that simply explain it away because they do not like to retain their knowledge of God, the result is all the same. They glorified Him not as God.

In Romans 1:28, "... *they did not like to retain*" Retain means keep. "*They did not like.*" We know what that means. "I do not like such and such." They found this intuitive knowledge unpleasant. This is why so many people are angry. They have this intuitive knowledge that there is a God and they don't like that, so they attack and suppress righteousness. They hold the truth in unrighteousness. They suppress truth in their own unrighteousness. "... *They did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge.*"

Where does this intuitive knowledge of God come from? The obvious, of course, is it comes from God. It's not a Holy Spirit imparted knowledge that is in salvation. In Romans 1:20, we read, "*For the invisible things of him [Which is explained later in the verse. The invisible things speak of His eternal power and His Godhead. Those are the invisible things.] from the creation of the world [Keep in mind what he is talking about. He's talking about the invisible things, the power and the Godhead.] are clearly seen,*" These invisible things thought they are invisible, they can be seen by creation. God declares Himself in creation.

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

Why is it that man looks at the Grand Canyon, and he says, "Look what mother nature has produced." Why does he say that? Because they do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Creation reveals, creation declares there is a God, the creator. I can look at a piano and common sense tells me somebody made that piano. You can look at a pew. Somebody made that pew, somebody made this pulpit. Am I foolish enough to believe that my watch was once a checker and through the millions of years it advanced and now it's a watch? How do people come up with such foolishness? They do not like to retain God in their knowledge. They are doing everything in their power to get rid of the intuitive knowledge of God. But, creation itself declares, "I'm God!" The invisible things of God, the power of His Godhead, though they are invisible, they can be seen through creation. Verse 20 says, "... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made," Man has an intuitive knowledge of God.

God's power and God's person are manifested in creation by providence. Providence means the things that happen. The power of God is manifest in creation by the things that happen in this world. It would be amusing if it wasn't so sad, to watch people who do not like to retain this intuitive knowledge try to explain providential actions. They become fools.

In Romans 1:20 it says, "*For the invisible things of him [His eternal power and Godhead] ... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made ...*" Then in Psalms 19:1-6 it says, "*The heavens declare [Proclaim, announce, reveal.] the glory of God; [The beauty and magnificence of God. Man not liking to retain that message, replaces it with evolution.] and the firmament sheweth [Which is the same as declare.] his handywork. Day unto day [God declares this. The sun rises, and sets. That is a declaration that there is a God. The seasons come and go. Day unto day.] uttereth speech [Shows], and night unto night sheweth [Reveals this,] knowledge. [There is] no speech nor*

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

language, [where] their voice is not heard." That is the voice of creation. It's everywhere.

Those who have never, ever heard the gospel are without excuse because of the creation that is all around them, because of the works of God that is all around them. They are without excuse. I recently heard someone say that if they've never heard the gospel, then they go to heaven. That is so foreign to the word of God. It's absolute stupidity. Why would anyone tell anyone else about the Lord if that were so? That would be the most cruel thing you could do, because if they don't know they're OK. That's utter foolishness. This was said by someone that ought to know better. I was just aghast. I could hardly believe what I was hearing.

Continuing in Psalms 19, *"Their line is gone out through all the earth, [Talking about creation.] and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; [Talking about the sun rising.] [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."* Creation declares the glory of God.

In Psalms 97:6 we find, *"The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory."* They see it in the heavens. It's all around us. The providential acts of God are all around us. This general revelation renders man without excuse. Romans 1:20, says "so" That's a very important word. Since creation reveals God and since all can see or hear creation, experience creations, "... so that they [Man in general.] are without excuse:" They can say, "No one told me." That won't fly. They are without excuse just being and experiencing the creation, and experiencing the providence of God.

Things happen in people's lives and they say, "WOW! What a coincidence!" Why do they say that? Because they do not like to retain God in their knowledge.

Chapter 4 - Intuitive Knowledge of God

Why don't they say, "WOW! God has done a wonderful thing there!" You and I say that because we see it. But man with his intuitive knowledge of God, wants to get rid of it, so he will say, "WOW! What a coincidence, I sure am lucky. I sure am fortunate."

I hate those words, lucky and fortunate. A lot of God's people have replaced lucky with fortunate. Explain to me the difference between lucky and fortunate. There is no difference. It's "blessed." We are blessed.

Romans 2:1, *"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."* The key point is, *"Therefore thou art inexcusable."* It is a continuance of what is said in Romans 1. As you come to this knowledge that creation reveals God, man is without excuse. You can say, "Well, they don't know any better." They should because creation itself reveals that there is a God. What man does with his intuitive knowledge is a display of man's depravity. They do not like to retain God in their knowledge. That is a display of the depravity of man.

General revelation, revelation from creation, the providence of God is a declaration, "I am God". A child is born by the providence of God. That is a declaration, a proclamation, "I am God." Every time someone dies that is a message, "God". Everywhere around us is the message of God. All these things render man without excuse. That means it renders him without justification before God.

We must stress again that intuitive knowledge does not save people. That's why God sent Christ into the world so that man can be justified. Intuitive knowledge does not justify anyone. Really, intuitive knowledge manifests the depravity of man, because of what he does or doesn't do with that knowledge. It's simply another manifestation of the depravity of man.