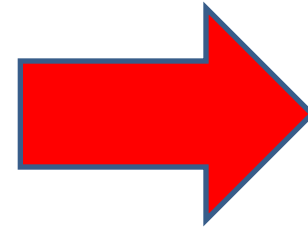


STARTING POINT



*We have already made the charge that
Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.*

Romans 3:9

This is what Paul is doing in
Romans chapters 1 & 2.
This helps us to understand
what he is saying.



The Big Question

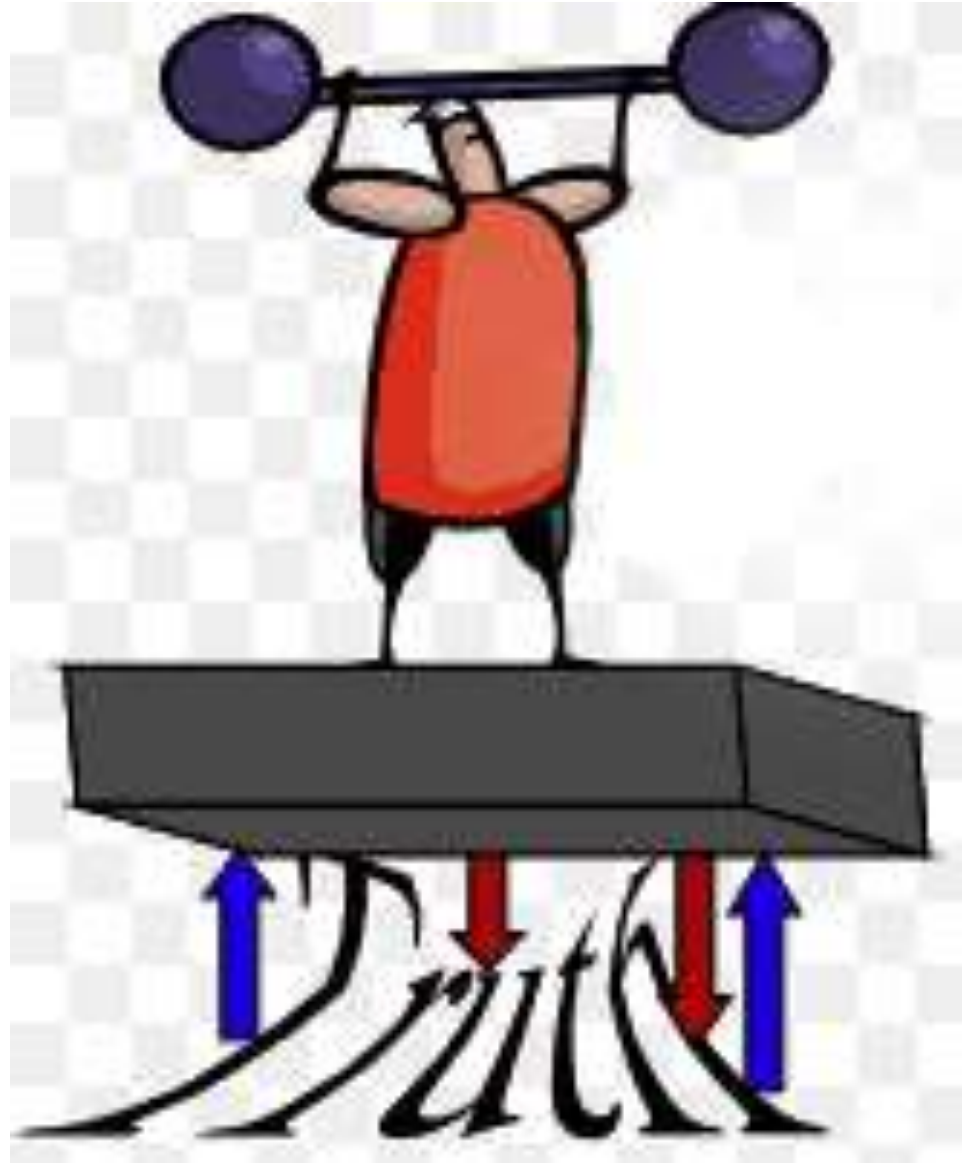
From a human standpoint, God has 2 'problems':-

- 1, What to do about evil. (Answered first)**
- 2, How to save sinners. (Answered later)**

Romans 1:18

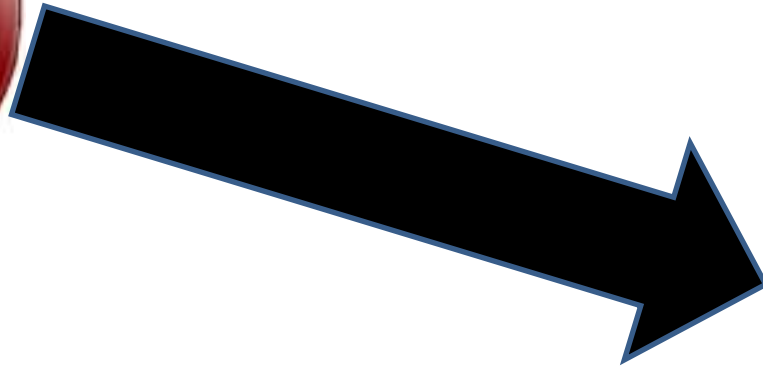
The BAD NEWS first

God's wrath
is being revealed
(note the present action)
against godless
and wicked men who
suppress the truth.



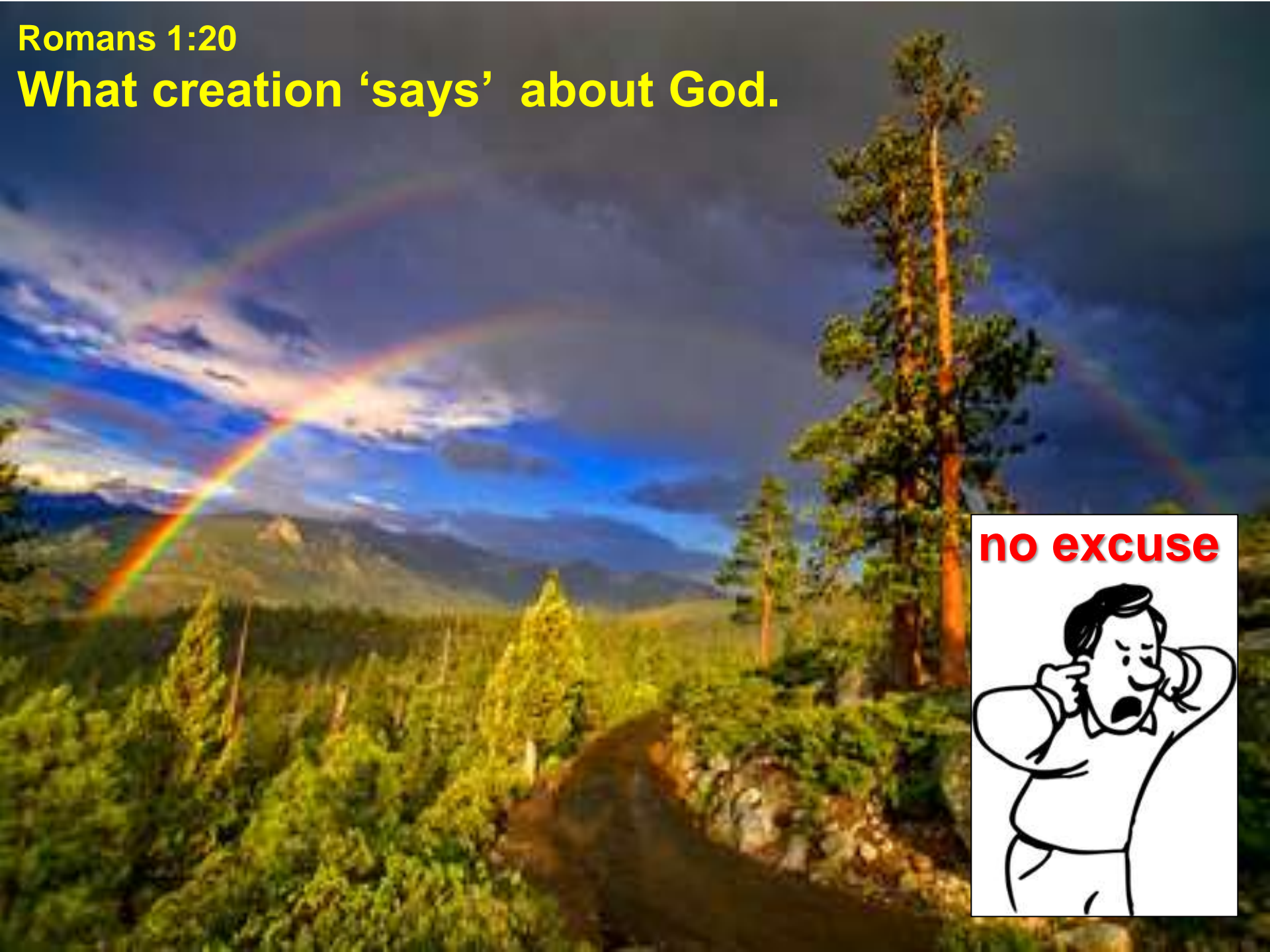
Godlessness -> Wickedness

Sin has in-built consequences - it judges itself.



Romans 1:20

What creation 'says' about God.



Romans 1: 21 - 23 'Wise'-morons!

The downhill process begins

breakdown of normal healthy family life - Society in chaos

They 'know' God but ->

do not worship him ->

their minds and hearts are darkened

Substitute images (man worship) & animal worship for God!



God's action ↓

-he gave them over-

1, sexual degradation - sexual-revolution, prostitution,
(24 – 25) adultery



worship & serve created things

2, sexual perversion - lesbian & gay practices
(26 – 27) (due penalty? Sense of identity?)



3, depraved minds - inventing worse behaviour
(28 – 32) (destructive attitudes & actions)
Note media approval and propagation

They know God's righteous decree when we tell them.

This is the sequence for the decline and fall of empires!

He's a nice guy really!



Romans 2: 1- 3

Pointing the finger ?



**You know better –
but are doing the same things!
(maybe less obvious but God knows)**

Will you get away with it?

Romans 2: 4 - 5

Piling it higher !



God's intention in delaying final judgement?

repent

The day of God's wrath

Justice will be done!

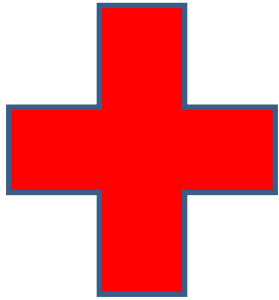
1, To those who do good → glory
(How do interpreters handle this?)



2, To those who do evil → wrath

Romans 2: 12

The LAW ? (more Jewish – Greek)



Psalm 119



Daniela

**In the O.T. the word ‘law’ generally means
{Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy}
This is called by the Jews the “Torah” .
Perhaps the word ‘Bible’ is a better NT translation.**

**So let's read Romans 2: 12 – 15 substituting for the word
'law'
the word 'bible' or 'word of God'**

All who sin apart from the * will also perish apart from the ***, and all who sin under the *** will be judged by the ***. For it is not those who hear the *** who are righteous in God`s sight, but it is those who obey the *** who will be declared righteous.**

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the *, do by nature things required by the ***, they are a *** for themselves, even though they do not have the ***, since they show that the requirements of the *** are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)**

No favouritism

For Jews (who have the traditions, bible , true religion, etc.)



and Gentiles (complete outsiders to these advantages)

Sin (for both groups) -> destruction

“Righteous”

(in God’s sight)

is not just hearing *but doing*

Romans 2: 14 - 15

Conscience at work

In fact Gentiles know basic right & wrong

**“Conscience” is
God’s law on the inside.
(written on our hearts)
It needs
enlightening & softening
(Promised in the New Covenant)
(in Jeremiah 31: 33)

but it is still working!**



So .. What is God doing about evil?

The
Big
Question

Romans 2:16

He is acting NOW
but the Day of Judgement will settle everything!



Jesus will be God's appointed judge. (see Acts 17:31)

No cure for sin !

Only death is the answer...



“Don’t blow away the cobwebs”

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.. sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these.. anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.