

*Romans Part One: What It Takes to Change the World – Third Week*

# *How Cultures Unravel*

*Romans 1:18-23*

**Introduction:** As Paul begins the first section of Romans he explains why the world needs salvation through Christ. In 1:18-3:20, he cites four groups under God's condemnation. The first group consists of secular non-Christians. In this section Paul shows how secular cultures naturally disintegrate on account of the wrath of God.

**1. *FIRST REALITY – There is a God in heaven who sees human sin.***

*Romans 1:18a*

- A. Paul's statement – "God's wrath is revealed from heaven." 1:18a1
- B. What Paul does not mean by wrath.
- C. What Paul does mean by wrath.
- D. Paul adds that "God's wrath is revealed from heaven."

**2. *SECOND REALITY – There is a humanity on earth that resists its creator-God. Romans 1:18b-23***

- A. Step one: intellectual response – People see the truth about God but suppress it. 1:18-20
- B. Step two: emotional response – People know things about God but fail to give thanks. 1:21a
- C. Step three: institutional response – People profess wisdom, but engage in foolishness. 1:21b-22
- D. Step four: religious response – People must worship something, so they worship the creation. 1:23

**3. *RESULT – As people and cultures continue in their rejection of God, he gives them over to their sin. Romans 1:24-24***

- A. The statement – "God gave them up." 1:24a-25 (See Acts 17:26-27.)
- B. The result – Their bodies are dishonored. (Then, ritual prostitution...now many things.) 1:24b

**4. *RESPONSE – How should Christ-followers live in this kind of culture?***

