**Creation and Corruption**

Based on [Romans 1](http://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro1)

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Advent Midweek 1

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In the first chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, God teaches the that though all men are guilty before His Law of God and deserve death, there is good news in that He justifies men by faith. It teaches (1) that God is the Creator of all things, (2) that mankind has corrupted and perverted his creation for its own debased purposes. (3) God redeems his creation by justifying it by faith.

(1) God is the Creator of all things,

The First Article of the Apostles’ Creed is the simple sentence, “**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**” God created everything. He created (1) every good thing in you, giving **your body, soul, eyes, ears, and all your members, your reason and all your senses and still takes care of them. And** He created (2) every good thing you have—giving you clothing and shoes; food and drink, house and home, spouse, children, the air you breathe and land you live on. Every day, whether you deserve it or not, He gives you everything you need to support yourself. For all this it is your duty to thank Him, praise Him, serve Him, and obey Him.

These thinks are not mysteries, but known to all men. Romans says, “**What can be known about God is plain to all men, because God has shown it to them. 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**” (vv.19-20)

God is known by everyone. God’s power and his godliness are seen in all that he has made. All the heavens declare the glory of the Lord. **From the greatest rainstorm to the simplest living creatures, you know and everyone knows God in his power and might His divinity and His majesty.**  And on account of this, everyone owes Him thanks, praise, service and obedience, not as though he needs them, but because it is just, it is honorable, it is right to give Him all thanks and praise, and to honour his creation by treating it according to the purposes for which he created it.

(2) mankind has corrupted and perverted God’s creation for its own debased purposes.

Rather than thank God for his creation through obedience, we have perverted it. And so we became futile our thinking and our foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, we became fools, and exchanged the truth about God for a lie. We worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! I say “we,” because before God you are not an island unto yourself. The history of mankind is your history, its sins are your sins, and the rebellion and disobedience to God’s Law that is shown throughout history, is in your heart by nature.

God is worthy of all glory and praise, instead we praise and worship his creation, above him. From the beginning, from the moment of the first sin this was so. Eve listened the Serpent instead of God’s Word. This is the history of the corruption of mankind. It is why pagan cultures make idols of stone fashioned to look like animals. It is why Churches that are falling or have fallen away from the faith ordain women to be Pastors; and marry homosexuals. These things are a worship of the creature instead of God’s Word which condemns such perversions of His creation.

“**For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 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**.”

Like a parent who in patience and love has long enabled their wayward child’s unlawful behavior; so too God patiently and lovingly endures those who take advantage of His graciousness. But He does not do so forever. Eventually he lets go, and turns his disobedient creation over to itself. It was like this in the days of Noah, so it is in every evil age. The wicked prosper, defy God and His Law and mock His silence and His absence.

So God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.” Thus saith the Lord.

Someone might say, “**Well they just don’t know any better**.” That is a lie. “Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

(3) God redeems his creation by justifying it by faith.

So along with all of humanity we stand condemned. There is no hope in the Law, in our ability to justify what we’ve done. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. **We have all dishonored him and in our sinful flesh contributed to the perversion of his good creation.** And there is only one verdict for one who has broken the Law, ‘guilty.’

Those who are under the Law see no escape from God’s wrath. They hide from God and return to their sin as a dog to his vomit and a fool to his folly. The law always accuses condemns and kills, and by it no one will be justified before God.

But the righteousness of God has been revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “**The righteous shall live by faith**.” And this faith is not a faith in a righteousness to be found in us by the Law. This faith is a righteousness put into our ears by the preaching of the Gospel. Jesus Christ died for your sins, and cancelled the record of debt against you. By that faith you can live before God justified, not because you have kept the Law, but because you know your sins are forgiven.

God is the Creator of all things, of all you are and all you have. All of mankind has corrupted and perverted his creation for its own debased purposes. It is a fearful thing to stand in the presence of the living God, and if you would have to do it by the Law you would find only wrath and condemnation. But God redeems his broken creation by sending His Son with the Gospel of righteousness by faith for all who believe in Him. Now by faith you live, you have the Holy Spirit who enables you to put off all wrath, hatred, envy, perversion, disobedience…every perverted misuse of what God has given you, and instead honour God in all you say and all you do, in all he has created and all he has given you.