

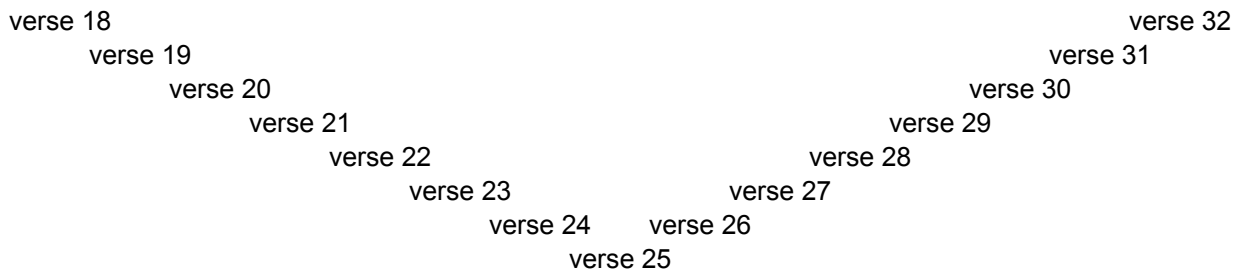
Lesson 2
Romans 1:18-32

In this lesson, the student will:

1. Identify key words found within the passage
2. Trace the use of those words through the rest of Paul's letters
3. Determine a logical flow to the passage
4. Locate the key human dilemma presented by Paul in this passage

Exploring the Word

Exegesis is the study of God's Word utilizing a systematic method of exploration. The purpose of exegesis is to gain a more clear understanding of God's Word. Exegesis is a very demanding process which uses many different methods. One of the tools I like to use is to find some sort of "flow" in the passage I'm studying. As I read this passage, I broke it up according to the following alignment. Basically, what I noticed was the flow of Paul's argument to the main point of this section of his letter to the Romans: "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!" (v. 25). Let me give you an example of why I do this. I will show the relationship between verse 18 and verse 32. In verse 18, Paul tells us that God's wrath is revealed "from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth." Then he concludes this section of scripture (v. 32) by saying: "They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die – yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them."



Take the passage above and come up with a brief summary. When you have done that, fill in the blanks below with your verse summaries. I have done verse 18 and 32 for you:

- (18) Wrath revealed to all
- (19) _____
- (20) _____
- (21) _____
- (22) _____
- (23) _____
- (24) _____
- (25) _____

- (32) Know the decrees, but ignore it.
- (31) _____
- (30) _____
- (29) _____
- (28) _____
- (27) _____
- (26) _____

1. What would you say is the human dilemma Paul is dealing with in this passage?

2. Paul talks about the wickedness of the people in several parts of this passage. In your own words, tell me what Paul means by wickedness. _____

3. As you look around the world, what do you learn about God? Do you believe that all people (even atheists) are capable of knowing there is a God? _____

4. Some people see verses 26 and 27 as the focal point of this passage. What would you say is the focal point of this passage? _____

5. Why did God punish people with his wrath? _____

6. How does this passage compare with Acts 17:22-34? Both passages deal with worshipping God. What are the differences you notice in the two passages? _____

Sowing the Seed

1. Within this passage are many references to the relationship between God and humanity. How would you describe the relationship between God and humanity in 2002? _____

2. What does this passage say to you about your relationship with God? _____

3. Establishing a right relationship with God seems to be the focal point of this passage. How do you define a right relationship with God? _____

4. How does this passage speak to our current situation? Can you name specific events in our world that remind you of this passage? _____

5. The Gospel is good news. What is the good news you discern from this passage?

6. As you read the newspapers this week, find an article that reminds you of this passage. Clip it out and bring it with you to class. Be prepared to share with us why it reminded you of this passage.

7. I am reminded of the creation story and the fact that we are created in God's image. I am also reminded of the fact that God saw what He created and said that it was good. What do you think God might say as He looks out across his creation today? Write a newspaper headline that summarizes what you believe God might say about His creation.

8. Lastly (but this should be firstly), dedicate a regular time each day for prayer. A time in which you make a concerted effort to worship your Creator. At the end of each time of prayer, write down the thoughts that came to mind during your prayer time.

Memory Verse for the Week

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