

## FROM CREATION TO CONSCIENCE

Psalm 19:1-14; Romans 1:16-32 / Genesis 1:1-31

### I. Is the Gospel Embarrassing?

**A. The Bible is always in conflict with unredeemed cultures, but the message of grace is overwhelming.** “For *I am not ashamed of the gospel* of Christ: for *it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (ROMANS 1:16)

**1. There can be only one ultimate reality.** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for *what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*” (2 CORINTHIANS 6:14)

**2. Retreating into an isolated subculture is no option for people of faith.** “*I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation*: I have not concealed thy loving-kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.” (PSALM 40:10)

**B. Everyone experiences conflict – either in the world or at the judgment seat of God.** “*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me* and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; *of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father* with the holy angels.” (MARK 8:38)

**C. The governing issue in life is faith.** “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, *The just shall live by faith.*” (ROMANS 1:17)

**1. God defines faith.** “Now *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (HEBREWS 11:1)

**2. When people create their own truth, and live on the basis of the resulting lies, they provoke God’s wrath.** “For *the wrath of God is revealed* from heaven *against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*” (ROMANS 1:18)

### II. Sin Causes a Fatal Perceptual Disorder

**A. Wisdom and prudence are only genuine when they work; going to hell is worse than being embarrassed.** “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil*; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*” (ISAIAH 5:20-21)

**B. The world forms a unified reality reflecting a single design source.** “For *the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made*, even his eternal power and Godhead; so

**that they are without excuse.” (ROMANS 1:20)**

**C. Sin transforms reality into imagination. “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And *changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man*, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” (ROMANS 1:22-23)**

**D. When truth becomes a lie, efforts to live well by the new standard kill; sin is a self-punishing process. “Wherefore *God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE*, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections*: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:” (ROMANS 1:24-26)**

**E. Some sins are in themselves punishments. “And even *as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind*, to do those things which are not convenient;” (ROMANS 1:28) “*So I gave them up unto their own hearts’ lust: and they walked in their own counsels.*” (PSALM 81:12)**

### **III. Eternal Death Is Worse than Embarrassing**

**A. God promises to expose and destroy counterfeit wisdom. “For it is written, *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:19) “The *wise men are ashamed*, they are dismayed and taken: lo, *they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?*” (JEREMIAH 8:9)**

**B. Public opinion and the wisdom of the age shift like dry leaves blowing in the wind, but the gospel advances unchanged across time and distance. “*Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:20)**

**C. The despised gospel changes lives and improves life even as it is condemned by the surrounding wisdom of dying civilizations and cultures. “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, *it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:21)**

**D. Watch for the trap. “*Let no man deceive himself.* If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.* For it is written, *He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-19)**