

Three Witnesses

Romans 1:18-22



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FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 1:18-22 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; **(19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.** (20) 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: **(21) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools^{KJV}**

We live in a time when people have a disconnect between what they *say* they believe and how they *live* their lives. Many people declare that they want to know the Almighty God Who created this universe, but few people want a *relationship* with Him. It is as if we have confused the Creator with a roll-on deodorant. We want a god who goes on invisibly, and protects continuously without interfering with our active lifestyle.

May I submit to you all that the God Who has made us all, and has made all that we see, is not like a deodorant. He is not a product, a thing to be used then put on the shelf until the next time He is needed. Our God, the True God, is no *product*, but He is a *Person*, an eternal Person of limitless power. This Person, described in verse 20 of our focal text as Someone Who has “**eternal power and Godhead**”, nonetheless has *feelings* as all persons do.

The Bible teaches that we who are human are **made in God's Image (1 Corinthians 11:7)**. Since we all differ externally – we have different skin tones, different structures, different heights, and so on – then it is not unreasonable to assume that the *image of God* is something internal to us. We long to be with others, God longs to be with us. We love, we are angered, we experience emotions when rejected. The exact same thing is true of our Creator, the Eternal Elohim.

Our Loving Creator has given us a number of *witnesses* by which we should be led to saving faith in Him. He has made Himself known in our *conscience*, in *creation*, and finally in *Christ*.

1. Conscience, The *Internal Witness* From God

FOCAL Romans 1:18-19 **For the wrath¹ of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.**

God's wrath is revealed or made manifest to all of us.

The word **wrath** is the Greek word *ὀργή*, *orgē*,

¹ G3709, *ὀργή*, *orgē*, *or-gay'*, From G3713; properly *desire* (as a *reaching* forth or *excitement* of the mind), that is, (by analogy) *violent passion* (*ire*, or [justifiable] *abhorrence*); by implication *punishment*: - anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.

(pronounced *or-gay'*), which means *violent judgmental passion*, and in some instances can mean *vengeance*. God is perfectly just in unleashing wrath on any who reject Him, for God has left us a clear *internal witness that He exists* in every person who has ever been born. When God designed us **in His image** He made each and every one of us with something called a *conscience*. The conscience is *hardwired* with a knowledge of God, and a basic knowledge of good and evil. Later on in the Book of Romans we read:

Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: (15) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and [their] thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

The **Ten Commandments** were given to Israel on tablets of stone. The Gentiles – that's us – never received these commandments at Mount Sinai. However every person who has ever been born has had these Commandments *written in their conscience*. The Conscience bears witness that *there is a Just and Holy God, because we see right and wrong written in our hearts by that Creator God*. When a murder is committed we do not jump up and say, “That's a violation of the Sixth Commandment”! No, the Jew would do that, but not the Gentile. We do know, dear Ones, that what has been done is wrong because our conscience bears witness to

that wrong. Our focal text tells us that God can, with all justice, **exercise His wrath on those who ignore their conscience.** Why? Because ...

FOCAL Romans 1:19 ... **that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.**

God has given all people a clear knowledge of basic right and wrong in the conscience. People know that certain actions are wrong because these actions violate the decree of the Overseeing and Just Creator. The conscience is a part of the human framework. The Bible warns us that:

Titus 1:15-16 Unto the pure all things [are] pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving [is] nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. (16) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

It is possible to damage the conscience, to sear it or harden it by repeatedly ignoring it. Are you familiar with the disease called *leprosy*? Leprosy destroys the nerve endings of the body, and as the nerve endings die the body loses its ability to sense *pain*. You might think that this is a good thing – think again! Though we may fear pain, pain is truly a blessing from God. Prior to the pain of being burned we feel the discomfort of the hot stove. If we ignore the discomfort and put our hand on the red

hot eye, pain screams down our nerve endings and compels us to pull our body away from the hurtful thing. Without pain we would lean on the destructive and stay in its path. Pain is not a curse, but a blessing. The curse is when the disease of leprosy strikes. The Leper, deprived of sensation and pain in his limbs, will put his body in the path of danger without fear. The hand on the burning stove eye is not quickly removed, though flesh may be quickly destroyed. Without pain as the watchman on the tower of the body that body may quickly be mortally injured.

The same is true of the conscience. The conscience can be likened to the nerve endings of the soul, warning us when we step out into destructive behavior. God has warned us that certain behavior is damaging to us. The conscience warns us that actions like **murder, adultery, lying, theft, idolatry**, and so forth are *destructive behavior*. The conscience warns us to flee from *sexual sin*, for if we do not we may experience sexual disease, unwanted pregnancy, or we may destroy our families. The conscience warns us like the nerve endings warn us. If we ignore its warnings then we, like the leper, may destroy its effectiveness. The Bible warns that the **defiled conscience** can lead a person away from God and into a greater destructive behavior.

The conscience can be *seared* or *hardened* by repeatedly ignoring its warnings. The old saying, “A clear conscience is the best pillow”, is very true. But Beloved, it is possible to reject the warnings of the conscience over and over again until the conscience no longer has any force in the life. A good example of this is **Pharaoh**

in the time of the Exodus. God sent **Moses** to Pharaoh to tell him to **let Israel go**, but Pharaoh refused both God and Moses. Through nine different plagues the Lord warned Pharaoh that it was His Will that Israel be freed. Each time the Bible says **Pharaoh hardened his heart** (see **Exodus 7:12-14; Exodus 7:22; Exodus 8:15; Exodus 8:19; Exodus 8:32; Exodus 9:7**). At a certain point the Bible tells us that the Lord stopped dealing with Pharaoh, and

Exodus 9:12 ... the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

God wants the very best for all in His Creation. He wants the very best for you and for me. This is why He has given us a conscience, a clear internal witness that He exists. The conscience can be damaged by repeated acts of neglect. The Bible warns:

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

When a person departs from God, refusing to heed the conscience, in time the conscience becomes like a thing **seared with a hot iron**. When some part of your body is seared with a glowing hot iron, the heat literally *kills the*

nerve endings. The Lord has given each and every person who has ever been born a *God Consciousness*. We know that God is, and hunger to know Him more. Your conscience – if it has not been seared to death by sin – leads you to seek after God. And that's what God wants you to do, to seek Him, to find Him, to learn more of Him. He says:

Proverbs 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Though the conscience can be hardened, ignored, abused, and even destroyed, that conscience will, while it is able, lead you to find the God Who so loves you. Which brings us to the second witness for God, the witness of Creation.

2. Creation, the *External Witness* From God

FOCAL Romans 1:20 For **the invisible things of {God} from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made²**, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ...

The phrase “**by the things that are made**” is the Greek word **ποίημα**, *poiēma*, (pronounced *poi'-ay-mah*), from which we get our **English word “poem”**. All of God's Creation is like a **poem, a work of art**. People look at

² G4161, **ποίημα**, *poiēma*, *poi'-ay-mah*, From G4160; a *product*, that is, *fabric* (literally or figuratively): - thing that is made, workmanship.

this work of art and often fail to see God in it because they see so much corruption and death. We need to remember that *it was Adam and not God* who brought corruption into this beautiful work of art:

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ... by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

When God made all things His creation was **very good (Genesis 1:31)**. His external witness- the Creation of God – had no sin, no death, no corruption, no suffering, no thorns until the day that Adam sinned. **Abraham Lincoln** rightly said,

"I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."

Sin and corruption in nature does cloak our Loving God's efforts to make Himself known – but not entirely. When in its corrupted state Creation still gives us a *clear witness of God*. Our focal text still asserts:

FOCAL Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of {God} from the creation of the world are clearly seen³, being understood by the

3 Present Passive Indicative of G2529, καθοράω, kathoraō, *kath-or-ah'-o*, From G2596 and G3708; to *behold fully*, that is, (figuratively) *distinctly apprehend*: - clearly see.

things that are made..

We can still clearly see God in His creation. The Greek for “are clearly seen” literally means **keeps on being distinctively apprehended**. What is the clearest evidence we have that there is a Creator God in this world *but our very own bodies*? The Psalmist said:

Psalms 139:13-14 For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. (14) I will praise You, because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.^{HCSB}

When we look at the external evidence of God, we need look no further than the human body. This body is, indeed, **remarkably and wonderfully made**. Each one of us has quite distinctive *fingerprints* - even identical twins have different prints one from the other. Talking about the fingers, **Dr. Philip Yancy** writes⁴:

The fingertip ... can detect a mere 3 grams of pressure, but not until that pressure exceeds 300 grams will I be able to feel pain there! Why? Think about the fingers activities. The concert violinist must sense an amazing range of pressures to produce perfect sound and volume. A skilled baker, swishing his hands through batches of dough, can notice as little as 2& variance in the stickiness or consistency.

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible

4 In his book "Where is God When It Hurts?" page 15

Cloth feelers in textile industries compare the qualities of cloth by touch. The fingertips must be incredibly sensitive to the slightest differences in touch."

How amazing is the human body? Here are a few facts that should boggle your minds.

- In one hour, your heart works hard enough to produce the equivalent energy to raise almost 1 ton of weight 1 yard off the ground.
- In 1 square inch of skin there lies 4 yards of nerve fibers, 1300 nerve cells, 100 sweat glands, 3 million cells, and 3 yards of blood vessels.
- There are 45 miles of nerves in the skin of a human being. An average person's heart beats 40,000,000 times.
- Each square inch of human skin consists of twenty feet of blood vessels. Nerve impulses to and from the brain travel as fast as 170 miles per hour.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks otherwise it will digest itself.
- Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for your heart.
- You use an average of 43 muscles for a frown. You use an average of 17 muscles for a smile. Every two thousand frowns creates one wrinkle.

- One human brain generates more electrical impulses in a single day than all of the world's telephones put together.

Do you need any more evidence that you were created by a Master Architect? We could talk about the wonders of the body for hours and never exhaust this subject. I heard someone remark the other day that the human body was worth *less than \$5.00* if broken down into its base composition. If you're talking about the raw materials, such as *potassium, iron, water* and so forth, you're probably right. But it's not the raw materials that give value to a thing, but *Who It's Architect is*. For instance, you can take *two pieces of spruce and maple* wood and sell them for just a few dollars. Or you could take the same wood, give it to **Antônio Stradivari** the famous violin maker and have an instrument that sells for millions of dollars.

“A Stradivarius made in the 1680s or during Stradivari's Brescian period (1690-1700) could be worth several hundred thousand dollars or more at today's prices in auction. If it was made during Stradivari's "golden period" (1700 to 1720), depending on condition, the instrument can be worth several million. They rarely come up for sale and the highest price paid for a Stradivarius (or any musical instrument) at public auction was 'The Christian Hammer', made in 1707, which sold for US \$3,544,000 on May 16, 2006.⁵”

5 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stradivarius>

The human body is worth much more than \$5.00 in raw materials because **you are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Loving Creator God!** The **Indiana University School of Medicine** reports⁶:

“How much is a human body worth? When broken down into fluids, tissues and germ fighting our bodies are worth more than \$45 million. This price tag on the human body is based on a survey published in Wired magazine. It found that vital organs are no longer the most valuable body parts. Rather, bone marrow heads the list...priced at \$23 million, based on 1,000 grams at \$23,000 per gram. DNA can fetch \$9.7 million, while extracting antibodies can bring \$7.3 million. A lung is worth \$116,400, a kidney \$91,400 and a heart \$57,000. Women’s eggs are costlier than men’s sperm. The survey found that a fertile woman could sell 32 egg cells over eight years for \$224,000; however, for a man to earn the same amount, he would have to make 12 sperm donations a month for 20 years. The prices are based on cost estimates taken from hospitals and insurance companies, and are based on projected prices only in the United States.”

I could talk at length about the various idiocies that so called *evolutionary theory* has thrust on the human mind. Evolutionary “Science” is not science at all, but the rape of intellect and the forcible abduction of all common sense. Evolution never has been nor never will be *good science*, for good science is based on *repeatable and provable experiments that the scientist can see*. I drop

⁶ <http://soundmedicine.iu.edu/archive/2003/quiz/humanWorth.html>

my keys on the ground, and they always fall downward. If this is repeatable and provable, seen by my experiments, then I can declare it to be scientifically true. You see, dear friends, good science makes sense, and always *reveals God's natural laws*. Bad science sells us foolishness, sells us the idea that there is no God, and that all the wondrous things we see around us – from the human body to the uncountable stars of heaven – *popped into existence from nothing*. Such science is idiotic. As God told Job:

Job 38:4-11 Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. (5) Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? (6) What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone (7) while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (8) Who enclosed the sea behind doors when it burst from the womb, (9) when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its blanket, (10) when I determined its boundaries and put its bars and doors in place, (11) when I declared: "You may come this far, but no farther; your proud waves stop here"?^{HCSB}

Who was there at the Creation of all things *but God*? Only He saw what He did. Evolutionists look to take the witness of God, to impeach it. They will not have God in

^{HCSB} Holman Christian Standard Bible

their thoughts, will not seek Him by faith, so they put their faith in a *Big Bang Theory* or a *GAP Theory* or some other nonsense.

God's witness of Creation is still clearly seen – we have no excuse.

3. Christ Jesus, The Eternal Witness of God

FOCAL Romans 1:21-22 ... **when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools⁷,**

The first two witnesses, *conscience and creation*, are not perfect. They are clear witnesses to the existence of God, but the conscience can be hardened and creation is defiled with sin. God sent another witness into the world to prove to us that He is, that He loves us, and that He wants to save us.

God the Father sent God the Son into this world. The Lord Jesus Christ came, lived among us, and showed us the face of God.

Look at the love of God. Look at how much He cares for us! God sent Jesus Christ to be the Savior of all who

⁷ Aorist Passive Indicative of G3471, *μωροαίω*, *mōrainō*, *mo-rah'ee-no*, From G3474; to *become insipid*; figuratively to *make* (passively act) as a *simpleton*: - become fool, make foolish, lose savour.

would believe on Him. The Bible says:

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God wants you to be saved? Will you be saved? The unsaved person, if he will be honest with his *conscience*, knows that he is a sinner. The *Law written on our conscience* warns us that we are short of God's Glory, that we need a Savior. How can we come away from our shortcoming without Jesus Christ?

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Every person's past has impurities that we despise, failings and sinful things that we have done. Our conscience, if it is not hardened, warns us that we must be purified, must be redeemed.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Once a person is saved, we know that we have life. Once saved, our conscience is restored. We are to see all things through the life of Jesus. We **live through Him**, and apart from Jesus Christ have no life. God has shown us Himself through Jesus Christ. God has saved us from certain destruction through Jesus. God wants us to look at life – all of life – and live it through Jesus.

You can turn away from the Lord. You can do as the text says and **become vain in your imagination**, allowing your conscience **to be darkened**. You can, if you so desire, follow the path of degradation until you become *foolish* or *without good sense*. This is the natural state of those who reject the God of the Bible. Jesus' answer to the godless Evolutionist is:

Mark 10:6-8 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. (7) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; (8) And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

There is a Creator God, and He has been revealed in the Holy Scripture. God sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to live among us, to suffer for us, and to die for our sins. It is not God's Will that you *keep Jesus as an external Witness of God*. The Lord wants you to accept this Witness *into your lives*. We are told:

1 John 5:9-12 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of

God which he hath testified of his Son. (10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Oh, dear Beloved Ones, you can only have life in Jesus Christ. Receive His Witness, believe on Him Who has never lied to you. Trust your lives to His care as the Gospel says, and you shall be saved. Live your lives through Him, and you shall find abundant and joyous life. On the day you accept Him as Savior by faith – and begin your Christian walk *in faith* – you will find yourselves empowered to do great things for Him. Look at the testimony of Scripture:

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God ... "

Hebrews 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated ... he pleased God. "

Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God ... prepared an ark"

**Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham... obeyed;
and he went out, not knowing whither he went."**

Believe on Jesus Christ, trust Him, live your lives through Him day by day, one day at a time. Faith always trusts in Christ. Surrenders to Christ, Moves in Christ, and is blessed in Christ.

May God touch your hearts with these words.

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