

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Lost World

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 1:18-31

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2043

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Romans has been called the Constitution of Christianity.
- b) Today's message will discuss the bad news that makes the Good News good.
- c) Our world is lost and on a collision course with judgment.
  - i) Think of the entertainment with which we amuse ourselves.
  - ii) Crime has soared.
  - iii) Families are being destroyed.
  - iv) Millions of babies are being killed in their mothers' wombs.
  - v) We are told, however, that people are not to be called sinners.
    - (1) To call anyone a sinner is considered to be intolerant.
    - (2) The sin, in the minds of many today, is to call the sin a sin.
      - (a) People may be sick, but they're not sinful.
      - (b) They may be weak, but they're not wicked.
      - (c) They may be ill, but they're not evil.
      - (d) Today, almost anyone can give an excuse for the way he or she lives.
- d) The Scripture we'll study today in the book of Romans is like a great courtroom with Almighty God as the chief justice and the Apostle Paul as the prosecuting attorney.
  - i) Paul will show that this world is without excuse.
    - (1) Sin is inexcusable, and the world is headed for judgment.
      - (a) That judgment is called the wrath of God.
- e) Romans 1:18
  - i) The word "wrath" means "that which burns."
    - (1) There are those who claim that God is a God of love and, therefore, He cannot be a God of wrath.
      - (a) God is a God of infinite, measureless and fathomless love.
      - (b) God is also a righteous and holy God and a God of judgment and wrath.
      - (c) If we take part of the truth and try to make part of the truth all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth.
    - ii) The phrase "hold the truth" means to literally smother the truth.
  - f) The message today will focus on three things that show why the wrath of God is surely descending upon this world and why we are on a collision course with judgment.

2) MANKIND'S WILLFUL SELF-DETERMINATION (ROMANS 1:19-20)

- a) Romans 1:19-20
  - i) Those whom Paul refers to in this passage are the heathen; the ones who have not heard the Word of God.
    - (1) Some people try to reason that maybe these might be excused on the basis of ignorance or environment.
    - (2) But God says that there is no excuse because His existence is clearly seen.

- b) God reveals Himself to mankind.
    - i) There is the revelation of God's truth.
      - (1) It is shown in them.
        - (a) Romans 1:19
          - (i) "Manifest in them."
          - (ii) This is an inner witness that everybody has.
        - (b) This is called conscience.
        - (c) Whenever someone claims to be an atheist, they are lying.
          - (i) John 1:9
            - 1. It is clear to every person that God exists.
      - (2) It is unto them.
        - (a) Romans 1:19-20
        - (b) This is creation.
          - (i) God has two witnesses that say He exists:
            - 1. Creation
              - a. This is the outward, objective witness.
            - 2. Conscience
              - a. This is the inner, subjective witness.
          - (c) How did the stars and the universe happen?
            - (i) Out of nothing, nothing comes.
            - (ii) To be an atheist, you have to believe that nothing times nobody equals everything.
          - (d) Psalm 19:1-3
            - (i) Anybody, any place, any time can go out and look up at the stars and know that they didn't just happen.
      - ii) There is the reach of God's truth.
        - (1) Everybody knows.
      - iii) There is the resistance of God's truth.
        - (1) Romans 1:18
          - (a) "Hold the truth" in this passage means to resist, to smother, or stifle; to hold back the truth of God.
            - (i) They do not want to know.
            - (ii) This is willful blindness.
        - (2) It is not that they cannot believe, but that they will not believe.
          - (a) The problem is not in the head but in the heart.
        - (3) Those who do not believe in God hold back the truth.
- 3) MANKIND'S WICKED SELF-DECEPTION (ROMANS 1:21-23)
  - a) There is a selfish indifference.
    - i) Romans 1:21
      - (1) In this passage, "they knew God" refers to their knowledge that God exists.
      - (2) They did not worship God.

- ii) If we study the Bible just to satisfy our curiosity, then we will not learn truth.
  - (1) Truth is not given to satisfy our curiosity.
  - (2) Truth is given to cause our worship and our thankfulness.
- iii) If we learn truth but do not glorify God and are not thankful, then the very truth we have, we will lose.
- b) Then comes a sophisticated ignorance.
  - i) Romans 1:22
  - ii) There are none so blind as those who refuse to see, but those who refuse to see think that they see perfectly clear.
    - (1) They think that Bible-believing Christians are the fools and that they are wise.
  - iii) Nature abhors a vacuum.
    - (1) If a person does not believe in the true God, then that does not mean that he will believe in nothing.
      - (a) It means that he will believe anything.
    - (2) Until 1962, America had, pretty much, a moral and spiritual consensus.
      - (a) Then, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed the right of children to openly and publicly pray in schools.
      - (b) Since then, America has been on a downhill slide because light refused increases darkness.
        - (i) Romans 1:21-22
- c) Then, there is a shameful idolatry.
  - i) Romans 1:23
    - (1) The phrase “changed” in this verse literally means “exchanged.”
    - (2) They want to glorify man.
      - (a) This is humanism.
        - (i) It makes man the center and circumference of all things.
    - (3) This passage shows that man, made in the image of the incorruptible, Almighty God, will worship even bugs, or “creeping things.”
  - ii) An idol is a magnified sinner.
    - (1) People take their worst vices of war, greed, lust and pride, and make gods out of them.
    - (2) Man is so wicked that he makes a god out of his vices and then worships those vices by participating in them.
      - (a) The sinner molds the idol, and then the idol molds the sinner.
  - iii) An idol is anything we love more, fear more, serve more and value more than God.
    - (1) 2 Timothy 3:4
      - (a) We exchange or substitute the glory of Almighty God for these kinds of things.
    - (2) We have learned the way of the heathen by idolatry.
      - (a) Psalm 106:35-38
        - (i) Idolatry is in America today.

- 4) MANKIND'S WOEFUL SELF-DESTRUCTION (ROMANS 1:26-32)
  - a) They become sexually perverted.
    - i) Romans 1:26-27
      - (1) These verses speak of the unnatural sins of Sodom.
      - (2) Romans 1:24
        - (a) God calls the sin "uncleanness."
        - (b) He depicts it by lust and by dishonor.
      - (3) In verse 27, God calls it "unseemly."
    - ii) Leviticus 18:22
    - iii) Luke 17:26-30
    - iv) Some people reason that a strong economy is evidence that God is not judging a nation.
      - (1) Sodom had a good economy at the time of its destruction.
        - (a) Ezekiel 16:49-50
          - (i) They were full of bread and idleness.
          - (ii) It was not a time of economic downturn.
    - v) 2 Peter 2:6
      - (1) There was sexual perversion as a result of turning from God.
    - vi) What used to be called sin then began to be called sickness, and now it is a socially accepted practice.
      - (1) The Bible calls it sin.
    - vii) Isaiah 3:8-9
    - viii) It is not just sexual perversion, but it's the sin of immorality in any form, including adultery and fornication.
      - (1) Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry in America today.
      - (2) Millions of couples now choose to live together without getting married.
      - (3) The entertainment industry pumps this vileness into our homes through sitcoms, etc.
        - (a) What the devil can get us to laugh at, we can never take seriously again.
  - b) They become socially perverted.
    - i) Romans 1:28-31
  - c) They become spiritually perverted.
    - i) Romans 1:32
      - (1) They get their pleasure from watching immorality, ungodliness and wickedness.
      - (2) Their heroes become the people who are so spiritually perverted.
      - (3) They know the judgment of God, but they don't care.
    - ii) Romans 1:24-28
      - (1) Three times in this passage, it says that God gave them up, He gave them up, and He gave them over.

iii) The worst thing that God could do to America is to let us have our own way.

(1) The worst thing that God could do to us would be to simply leave us alone in our sin.

(2) Hosea 4:17

## 5) CONCLUSION

a) It's the bad news that makes the Good News good.

i) The Good News is Romans 1:16.

b) If you want to be saved, you can be saved.

i) Isaiah 1:18

ii) You can have every sin forgiven.

c) God the Holy Spirit can come live in your heart to give you peace, power and purpose.

i) And you can know beyond the shadow of any doubt that when you die or when Jesus comes, you're going straight to Heaven.

d) Give your heart to Jesus today.

e) Pray to Him and ask Him to come into your life.

f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

i) Romans 3:23

ii) Romans 10:9-10

iii) Romans 10:13

iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16