

- 2) What does the word righteous mean? In Hebrew it is the word TSADDIYQ (pronounced tsad-deek), meaning just or lawful. In Greek the word is DIKAIOS (pronounced dik'-ah-yos), meaning just or blameless, specifically just in the eyes of God or blameless in God's _____.

III. Romans 1:18-3:20 – The Justice of God towards Sinners

A. Romans 1:18-32 – God's judgment of the immoral sinner

1. Romans 1:18-20 – God is right when He condemns immoral sinners because by their rebellious conduct they _____ the truth.
 - a. Romans 1:18 – According to Romans 1:17, the *righteousness of God* is revealed to mankind through the gospel. Conversely, here in Romans 1:18 the _____ of God is revealed from heaven against everything unrighteous.
 - 1) Romans 1:18a – *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven...* From heaven God makes _____ His anger toward sin. Job 36:29-37:5
 - a) God allows all sinners to _____ the destructive consequences of their rebellion. Psalm 69:22, James 1:15
 - b) God also _____ those who die without having believed the gospel to eternal separation from Him in the Lake of Fire. Psalm 7:11
 - 2) Romans 1:18b – *...against all ungodliness...* Ungodliness is rebellion against God. Mankind's ungodliness disregards God's righteous character. Anything that opposes God's character or existence is _____, or not like God, and becomes a suppression of the truth.
 - 3) Romans 1:18c – *against all ... unrighteousness of men...* Unrighteousness is injustice. It particularly involves _____ against fellow humans. Ultimately, all injustice suppresses the truth.
 - 4) Romans 1:18d – *...who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.* In its rebellion, _____ humanity muzzles the truth and invites God's wrath.
 - b. Romans 1:19 – Although in their hearts all people know the truth of God's existence and His righteous character, in their fallen nature, they choose to _____ that truth.
 - 1) Romans 1:19a – *...because that which is known about God is evident within them.* _____ person on earth innately possesses a knowledge of God. God has written a basic knowledge of His existence upon every person's heart. Ecclesiastes 3:11, Acts 14:15-17
 - 2) Romans 1:19b – *...for God made it evident to them...* All civilizations and cultures have a knowledge of God, because God has placed this knowledge into their _____. This is why, generally speaking, most people are religious in some way and readily embrace the existence of some deity. Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 2:14-16

- c. Romans 1:20 – Not only does man have an internal witness of God’s existence, since the very beginning of time, _____ has declared the message of God’s existence in an unspoken, universal language that every heart understands. Psalm 19:1-6
- 1) Romans 1:20a – *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly _____...* Day and night, creation continually testifies to our Creator’s perfect character, His boundless power and His ultimate supremacy as God. Acts 17:22-28
 - 2) Romans 1:20b – *...being understood through what has been _____, so that they are without excuse.*
 - a) Everyone knows a beautiful painting is the work of a great artist. Well-written literature _____ a talented author, and magnificent structures are erected by master builders, brilliant architects and skilled engineers.
 - b) This shows that when people do not acknowledge the obvious greatness, majesty and wisdom of the Creator of the universe, they are without _____. Proverbs 30:4, Jeremiah 10:11-13
2. Romans 1:21-23 – God is right when He condemns immoral sinners because they deliberately _____ Him.
- a. Romans 1:21 – *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give [Him] thanks...* In the past, humanity’s failure to recognize, honor and _____ God brought terrible results, like the flood, fiery destruction (Sodom and Gomorrah), and captivity. Even now, as people reject God, history is destined to repeat itself.
 - 1) Romans 1:21a – *...but they became futile in their speculations...* Their deliberate disregard of God gave way to _____ theories and assumptions. Acts 17:28-29
 - 2) Romans 1:21b – *...and their foolish heart was darkened.* Mankind’s rejection of truth resulted in a lack of _____ and discernment. This happened to Israel when they turned away from God (Jer. 4:22, 5:21). This will happen to any civilization that disregards the truth of God. Ephesians 4:17-19
 - b. Romans 1:22 – *Professing to be wise, they became fools...* Humans called their _____ wisdom, but in reality, their ideas were totally senseless.
 - c. Romans 1:23a – *...and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image...* They rejected the everlasting, indestructible God and worshiped _____ instead. Genesis 3:8, Isaiah 44:9-20
 - d. Romans 1:23b – *...in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.* Humans created idols patterned after creatures that represented _____ they could manipulate and control. Jeremiah 10:1-5

3. Romans 1:24-27 – God is _____ and just when He condemns immoral sinners because they do not acknowledge His authority and supremacy as the Creator.
- Romans 1:24a – *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity... God _____ them over* means that God quit restraining them.
 - Romans 1:24b – *...so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.* In the past, when rebellious humanity purposefully rejected Him, God allowed them to do whatever shameful and shocking things they wanted with each other's _____.
 - Romans 1:25a – *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie.* These immoral sinners wanted God out of their lives. They chose to believe a _____ rather than the truth. Romans 8:13, James 1:15
 - Romans 1:25b – *...and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...* Instead of giving _____ to the Creator, they worshiped the beings He made.
 - Romans 1:25c – *...the _____ who is blessed forever. Amen.* Their actions insulted the true God, who alone deserves all praise and admiration forever.
 - Romans 1:26a – *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions...* When people purposefully chose to believe a lie rather than the truth and refused to acknowledge God's authority as Creator, God _____ them do the shameful things they wanted to do.
 - Romans 1:26b – *...for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.* Sex within marriage is *natural* because it was _____ by God. God labels prostitution and other sexual sins *unnatural*. Hebrews 13:4
 - Romans 1:27 – *...and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their _____.*
 - God called these _____ deviations immoral and allowed those who committed these shameful and unnatural acts to engineer their own destruction.
 - When sin runs its course, it always brings _____ to the sinner. James 1:15
4. Romans 1:28 – God is right when He condemns immoral sinners because they totally _____ God.
- Romans 1:28a – *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind...* When immoral sinners abandoned the _____ knowledge of God, they deteriorated intellectually.
 - Romans 1:28b – *...to do those things which are not _____...* In the downward progression of their depraved minds, they ended up sinning in ways not appropriate for any society. Ephesians 4:17-19
5. Romans 1:29-31 – God is right when He condemns immoral sinners because in the end their sin knows no _____. Everything is viewed as permissible.

- a. Romans 1:29 – They _____ and destroy one another without a second thought. *...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice [or coldhearted hatred, they become] gossips and slanderers.*
 - b. Romans 1:30-31 – Since sin is never stagnant, evil burrows ever _____. Immoral sinners become *...slanderers, haters of God, insolent [meaning disrespectful and rude], arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.*
6. Romans 1:32 – So God is _____ when He condemns immoral sinners because even in the face of looming judgement, they dare to defy Him. Romans 1:18
- a. Romans 1:32a – *...and although they know the ordinance of God...* The immoral sinner _____ instinctively God’s standard of right and wrong.
 - b. Romans 1:32b – *...that those who practice such things are worthy of death...* The immoral sinner knows full well that his or her rebellion deserves _____.
 - c. Romans 1:32c – *...they not only do the same...* The immoral sinner not only provokes God through personal rebellion, but daringly goes one _____ further.
 - d. Romans 1:32d – *...but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.* Sadly, the immoral _____ even goes so far as to encourage others to do the very things he or she knows are deserving of death.

B. Romans 2:1-16 – God’s judgement of the moral sinner

- 1. Romans 2:1-3 – God’s _____ of moral sinners
 - a. Romans 2:1 – Paul showed that moral individuals who brazenly _____ “immoral sinners” are likewise guilty themselves.
 - 1) Romans 2:1a – *Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment...* Moral sinners who _____ judgment on others are inexcusable.
 - 2) Romans 2:1b – *...for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.* Moral sinners actually condemn themselves, because they do the _____ things they criticize others of doing.
 - b. Romans 2:2-3 – God’s judgment of moral sinners is _____.
 - 1) Romans 2:2 – *And we know that the judgment of God rightly _____ upon those who practice the same things.* Those who point the finger at others and yet commit similar sins rightly deserve God’s judgment.
 - 2) Romans 2:3a – *But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things...* Moral sinners use their own standards to compare themselves with others they think are _____ than them. Of course, they always come out on top.