

HOW WE GOT IN THIS MESS  
ROMANS 1:18-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. *A woman wrote in to the newspaper editorial page with the question, "What's Wrong with the World?" G. K. Chesterton's reply the next day went like this, "Dear Madam. What's wrong with the world? I am. Yours truly, G. K. Chesterton.*
- B. When we talk about the subject of what's wrong with the world, we have to approach the subject humbly, because we're not just talking about all those really bad people in the world. We're talking about all of us. We're talking about me. We're talking about you. We're all sinners and to the degree that we're all not as bad as we could be, to that degree we have been spared by the grace of God. Anything that is right about you and me is because of the grace of God: grace that has come to us **undeserved** and **unlooked for**.
- C. But, although we assess the wrongs of the world with humility, we also assess them **honestly**. Rather than pretend that the **emperor** really does have clothes, we are going to acknowledge his nakedness. We will believe about the world what God says about the world. ***Because seeing what is wrong with the world is the first step to doing something to make it right.***
- *Paul is about to expound a wonderful salvation. But first he establishes the need for it by showing that all people are sinful. Many of his contemporaries did not agree, with the result that his message seemed foolishness to them. Many of our contemporaries do not agree with him either, with the result that his words are incomprehensible to them, too. It has always seemed to most people that they are, on the whole, pretty decent people. (Morris, 73)*
  - **WRATH OF GOD**=The settled and active opposition of God's holy nature to everything that is evil. (Morris, 76)
- D. HOW DID WE GET IN THIS MESS?
- E. ANSWER—TODAY'S **BIG IDEA**: ***WHEN PEOPLE PUSH BACK ON GOD, GOD STEPS ASIDE AND LETS THEM FALL INTO THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES.***
- \*\*\*Sometimes we try to intervene when a lover one intends to sin: *You can't do that!* we argue. Yes they can. But they have to pay the consequences.

t God. People do this several ways:

- Some people arrogantly deny that there is a god. They are called atheists.
- Some people admit that there may be a god, but that there is no way to be sure. They are called agnostics.
- Some people make up a god but he/she looks nothing like the God of the Bible. Christian feminists chant worship to the goddess Sophia. Environmentalists bow to Gaia. Animists worship tree and animal spirits. New Agers worship human potential. There are Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Scientologists, Mormons, and the list goes on for pages.

Why is this so foolish? Because....

<p>DISCUSSION: I CAN'T NOT SEE GOD. I COULDN'T DISBELIEVE GOD IS I TRIED WITH ALL MY MIGHT—THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS ABSOLUTELY INESCAPABLE TO ME. MAYBE YOU UNDERSTAND FULLY WHAT I'M SAYING. MAYBE NOT. <b><i>HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE PERSON WHO FINDS THE IDEA OF GOD'S EXISTENCE BEYOND BELIEF?</i></b></p>
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- A. God Is Well-Advertised
1. With the great number of people who claim to not believe in God or who live lives of functional atheism, one would think that the true God must be pretty well hidden for so many people to not find Him.
  2. Russian cosmonaut, **Major Gherman Titov**, looked for God in space as he orbited the earth in 1961. The next year at Seattle's World's Fair he announced, *"Some say God is living there [in space]. I was looking around very attentively.*

*But I did not see anyone there. I did not detect angels or gods...I don't believe in God. I believe in man, his strength, his possibilities, and his reason." (Seattle Daily Times, May 7, 1962, p.2)*

3. *Jean Paul Sarte is revered as one of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries greatest philosophers. As a 12 year old French boy living just after World War I, he stood in front of a mirror, cursed God three times and felt a sense of relief. Religion was valueless. God did not exist. (Luis Palau, God Is Relevant, p.xi-xii)*

- *The noted atheistic philosopher Bertrand Russell was once asked, "If you met God after you die, what will you say to him to justify your unbelief?" I will tell Him that He did not give me enough evidence," Russell snapped. (In Ravi Zacharias, Jesus Among Other Gods, 2000, 47)*

4. But what is the evidence?

a. Atheism is the result of not ignorance but of wickedness. It is not the end of an intellectual journey, it is a never-ending moral flight. (v.18, "wickedness"). People will go to any length to try to find some way to extricate themselves from the moral demands of the existence of God. At the root of things, man is a rebel and hates to bow to the authority of anyone, especially God. So let's pretend that there is no God and then we can do whatever we want!

- **Sexual freedom quotes**

b. Atheists don't process truth, they **suppress (attempt to hinder)** truth. (v.18, 21). Biochemist, **Michael Behe**, has written a stunning expose of the intellectual indefensibility of evolutionary science. It's called **Darwin's Black Box**. *"Imagine a room," he says, "in which a body lies crushed, flat as a pancake. A dozen detectives crawl around, examining the floor with magnifying glasses for any clue to the identity of the perpetrator. In the middle of the room, next to the body, stands a large gray elephant. The detectives carefully avoid bumping into the pachyderm's legs as they crawl, and never even glance at it....Textbooks say detectives must 'get their man,' so they never consider elephants."*

With microscopic detail, Behe crawls around in the unbelievable complexity of cells and bacteria, clotting systems, the immune system and pounds his scientific pulpit to announce that no thinking person could really believe all these things just happened.

One reviewer writes, *"Mr. Behe's elephant, of course, is 'intelligent design,' and he thinks it's high time the world of science admitted the obvious....As you might imagine, Darwin's Black Box is kicking up quite a fuss. Some of his scientific colleagues are accusing Mr. Behe of all kinds of treasonous things, like being disrespectful toward scientists."* ("Joel Belz, "You Just Have to Sing", World, October 12, 1996, p.5)

c. The Bible says that atheists are without excuse because the evidence is unavoidable. (vv.19-20, "what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

*20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.")*

- **Heart (verse 21)=the entire inner life (emotions were lower—entrails.**
- **Foolish (verse 21)=fatuous (JB Phillips), pointless.**
- *Though the apostle was not speaking specifically about the higher forms of Greek philosophy, in practice this philosophy "easily came to terms with the grossest forms of superstition and immorality...just as it is a grave count against the lofty philosophy*

of Hinduism that it utters no effective protest against the most degrading practices of popular religion in India today. (Morris quoting Dodd, 85)

- *One of the most marked characteristics of the new secular intellectuals was the relish with which they subjected religion and its protagonists to critical scrutiny. How far had they benefited or harmed humanity, these great systems of faith? To what extent had these popes and pastors lived up to their precepts, of purity and truthfulness, of charity and benevolence? The verdicts pronounced on both churches and clergy were harsh. Now, after two centuries during which the influence of religion has continued to decline, and secular intellectuals have played an ever-growing role in shaping our attitudes and institutions, it is time to examine their record, both public and personal. In particular, I want to focus on the moral and judgmental credentials of intellectuals to tell mankind how to conduct itself. How did they run their own lives?* (Paul Johnson, *Intellectuals*, c. 1988, 2)

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau—*An Interesting Madman*. The first and most influential of the modern intellectuals. 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sired 5 children by his mistress Therese—and had the midwives drop them off at a foundling hospital. At that overwhelmed hospital, two-thirds of the babies died in the first year. 14 out of 100 survived to age 7. Only five grew to maturity, most becoming beggars and vagabonds. Johnson, 21). Rousseau violently denied all accusations of this.

- *Shelley, or the Heartlessness of Ideas*

- *Bertolt Brecht: Heart of Ice*.

- *Lies, Damned Lies and Lillian Hellman*. Her enemy Mary McCarthy said of Lillian in an interview on *The Dick Cavett Show*, *I once said in an interview that every word she writes is a lie, including “and” and “the.”* (Johnson, 302)

d. **H G WELLS? More evidence?**

E. **Leo Tolstoy quote in Keller, 201:** *My question—that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide—was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man...a question without an answer to which one cannot live. It was: “What will come of what I am doing today or tomorrow? What will come of my whole life? Why should I live, why wish for anything, or do anything?” It can also be expressed thus: Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?* (In *A Confession*)

B. God Is Well-Marginalized (**verse 21**, “*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him...*”)

1. No glory

a. We all love the nature programs on Public TV or the National Geographic Specials. Those patient cameramen takes us to watch the dung beetles roll their bootie through the African night. We climb with them into a tree to watch butterflies fight their way out of cocoons and we see their wings enlarge and swell with strength. We marvel at the dance of the scout honey bees and the mating ritual of peacocks.

b. And then the narrator drones on about how these behaviors evolved millions of years ago. He pontificates on the wisdom of these simple creatures in adapting to their environment, creating wings for

themselves where there once were no wings, legs where there once were no legs.

- c. A brilliant surgeon operates on a human heart and saves a life. He has touched the wonder of life. He has felt it pulsating in his hands. He closes the incision, scrubs up and drives in his Porsche home to a home where there is no Bible and the name of God is never mentioned except in outbursts of anger.
  - d. Manger scenes are yanked off public squares. The 10 Commandments are peeled off courtroom walls. School concerts are sanitized of Christmas carols and our kids take a week of **Spring** break, not Easter vacation.
2. No thanks
- a. Bumper sticker, *“If you are going to complain about farmers, don’t talk with your mouth full.”*
  - b. I think it bothers God when people talk about Turkey Day instead of Thanksgiving Day. I’ll bet it reminds Him of how in one generation the children of Israel forgot who gave them the glorious land of Canaan. **Judges 2:10**, *“another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.”* God had warned the Israelites this might happen back in **Deuteronomy 6:10** *“When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you--a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant--then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”*
  - c. Here in America we have people who were delivered from the Irish potato famine, the religious persecution of Protestants in England, the anti-Semitism of Europe, the blood baths of Vietnam and Cambodia, the political oppression of Cuba, the poverty of Haiti. These people rejoice in the freedoms and riches of America but have largely forgotten to give God thanks for all these blessings which He has showered on our land.

C. God Is Well-Angered

- 1. “The wrath of God is revealed” (v.18)
- 2. Why is God so angry?  
**Analogy:** Once we lived in a neighborhood with a community association and community property. We had a park and a pool. In the park we had play structures and picnic tables. But we had a problem. In the night, kids from our own community would sneak into the park and destroy things. They actually tore the wooden picnic tables apart. It made me so mad. Here we had spent time and money making a nice place for kids and families to enjoy and these vandals ripped them apart. How could they do that? Had they no sense of value? Had they no appreciation?  
I think that’s how God feels. He gives us things to use and enjoy, he gives us sex for marriage and procreation. He gives us tongues to praise Him and build each other up. And the world takes all these things and vandalizes them. And as they destroy, they look around thinking that no one sees what they are doing...but they forget to look up. They forget about God.
- 3. There’s an interesting wording formula God uses in describing His acts of judgment on the wicked. God pronounces impending judgment and then adds these words, *“Then you will know that I am the Lord.”* I fed that phrase into my computer and got a printout of **68 verses**. Almost all of them deal with judgment.

4. God's creatures owe Him big-time. We owe Him acknowledgment and honor and He is going to get it one way or the other. God is the ultimate pay me now or pay me later proposition. Will you do it now when you can know Him as your Savior and experience His love and grace? Or will you delay your acknowledgment till the day of judgment when your chance for grace is gone forever. Make no mistake: Every person will acknowledge Him, it's just a question of time. That is declared in **Philippians 2:9** *"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*
5. QUOTE THAT FITS VERSE 22: **Romans 1:22**, *Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...*  
 Listen to this great statement from **John MacArthur** on Verse 20 [is this I Cor 1?]: *Paul asks several questions, really one question in three parts. In slightly different form they each ask, "Where are all the smart people that have all the answers?" How much closer to peace is man than he was a century ago - or a millennium ago? How much closer are we to eliminating poverty, hunger, ignorance, crime, and immorality than men were in Paul's day? Our advances in knowledge and technology and communication have not really advanced us. It is from among those who are intelligent and clever that the worst exploiters, deceivers, and oppressors come. We are more educated than our forefathers but we are not more moral. We have more means of helping each other but we are not less selfish. We have more means of communication but we do not understand each other any better. We have more psychology and education, and more crime and more war. We have not changed, except in finding more ways to express and excuse our human nature. Throughout history human wisdom has never basically changed and has never solved the basic problems of man. (MacArthur's commentary, 42)*

## II. GOD STEPS ASIDE AND LETS MANKIND FALL INTO THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES

### NOTES ON THE INEXCUSABILITY OF MANKIND:

- **VERSE 18**, *suppress the truth by their wickedness*
- **VERSES 19-20**, *since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*
- **VERSE 25**, *they exchanged the truth of God for a lie...*
- **VERSE 28**, *they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God...*

#### 1. The Fall into Immorality and Idolatry

- **VERSE 24**, *God gave them over...*

**DISCUSSION: HOW DOES THIS QUOTE ILLUMINATE VERSES 24, 26, AND 28: CS LEWIS**, *There are only two kinds of people—those who say "Thy will be done" to God or those to whom God in the end says, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell choose it.*

### IMMORALITY

- One lady got so upset over explicit child porn being sold in the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Lincoln, Nebraska that she confronted the manager who wouldn't discuss her concern. So **Donna Bockoven**, at 6:30 p.m. on July 20, started ripping up the book and was ticketed for vandalism. She had to pay for the book and agree to stay away from the store. The store also wanted her to write a letter of apology which she refused to do. (Jay Grelen, "A Real Page Turner", World, August 9/16, 1997, p.18).

- Shame on Barnes and Noble. Shame on the publishers of the book. Shame on the people who buy copies of the book. Shame on our judicial system which protects literature like this under free speech laws.
- We need to learn a lesson from **Tonga**. *“The tiny Pacific island of Tonga is raising revenue by allowing foreigners to register [WEB] sites using their “.to” domain. For \$100 and a visit to the Tongan Network Information Center at <http://www.tonic.to>, web architects can stake out just about whatever names they choose.*
- *“But there is one catch. Like many third-world countries...Tonga is a strongly Christian country. When people try to register a name that is obscene or improper, a pointed message goes straight to their screens: ‘You filthy minded pervert! The Kingdom of Tonga admonishes you. Now go back and think of a name you wouldn’t be embarrassed to say to your mother.’”* (World, July 26/August 2, 1997, p.22)

### **IDOLATRY**

- The prophet **Isaiah** is incredulous as he considers the folly of idolatry. He paints a vivid picture in **chapter 44:14** *“He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. 15 It is man’s fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. 16 Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.” 17 From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me; you are my god.” 18 They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. 19 No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?” 20 He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”*
  - We agree with Isaiah. We are a more enlightened society. How could anyone be so foolish as to bow down before graven images? How deluded! How primitive!
  - But we are blind to our own idols. Our idolatry is pervasive and powerful but it is more subtle. America’s idols are not simple carvings of wood or castings of metal. They are upholstered and wired with electronics. They fit in wallets and portfolios. Our currency says “In God We Trust” but our culture says “He Who Dies With the Most Toys Wins.”
  - An idol is anything that competes with my heart’s supreme devotion to God. It can sit on a shelf in an African’s bedroom or it can sit on a shelf an American’s heart. An idol is anything that siphons away from God my loyalty, my passion my resources.
  - Shame on the world and shame on me. **Colossians 3:5** *“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”*
2. The Fall into Homosexuality
- **VERSE 26**, *God gave them over...*
  - Of course, the world doesn’t call it immorality. It’s called freedom and new morality. And as if fornication and adultery and pedophilia were not enough, people explore deeper levels of immorality and bottom out in the depravity of homosexuality. How bad has it become in our own country? How about so bad that major denominations are arguing about whether to bless homosexual unions and ordain homosexuals to the ministry?!
  - “By the narrowest of margins, the Episcopal Church turned back an attempt to put the denomination’s blessing on homosexual ‘marriage.’ Even so, the 57-56 ‘no’ vote at the church’s General Convention heartened homosexual activists, who said they’ll try again at the next convention in 2000.” (World, August 9/16, 1997, p.9)

- *Fourteen of the first fifteen Roman Emperors were homosexuals.* (quoting Barclay in Morris footnote, 93)
  - So-called “Christian” homosexuals are writing that Romans 1 is not a condemnation against homosexuality but only against uncommitted relationships. They write that the sin of Sodom and Gomorra was not homosexuality, but rather the sin of inhospitality.
3. The Fall into Rampant Depravity
- **VERSE 28**, *God gave them over...*
  - We’re all driving a little more cautiously these days because senseless road rage is on the rise. Cut somebody off in traffic and he may blow you away.
  - Israel just had another bombing this weekend. 7 more people killed and 200 wounded in Jerusalem.
  - Bellevue has a murder/suicide in the news today.
  - We don’t like it but it surely shouldn’t surprise us. Sinners behave like sinners and God tells exactly what to expect from sinners in Romans 1. **Verse 29**, *“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.”* **Verse 31**, *“they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.”*
  - Remember what verse 21 said about futile thinking and foolish hearts? Well, it shows up again in our culture’s treatment of violent offenders. Our social engineers and many average Americans are captured by the idea of the essential goodness of man. Folks just can’t handle the idea that other folks might be just bad. So we argue in court that it was his background that conditioned him to do it or that she did it because of temporary insanity and therefore should not be held accountable. And people argue that capital punishment is wrong because where there’s life there’s hope and that with enough counseling, we can rehabilitate the violent criminal and make him a safe and productive citizen, maybe someday living next door to you and your children.
  - Sin is why neighbors have feuds, why bosses are mean, why your best friend may turn on you and why churches often have a greater reputation for infighting than outreach. **Verses 29-30**, *“They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil...”*
  - We have to be very careful about establishing trust in relationships. If you’ve ever had a friend betray a confidence, you are going to be gun-shy about opening your heart to a friend again. In business, colleagues play their cards close to their vests. Books are on the market about churches that abuse. You agonize over what to do when the neighbors are playing loud rock music at 2:00 in the morning. Do you dare go over and knock on the door? Or do you call the police? I know of two major instances here in Puget Sound where the Christian community trusted Christian brothers in investment schemes and were bilked out of millions of dollars. Some of the victims were my church friends. Some of the innocent board members feared they would be sued and lose everything they had. All because of misguided trust in a relationship that looked good but was deceitful.
  - Sin is hard on families despite society’s attempts to put a positive spin on what our culture has done to marriage and kids.
  - When Dan Quayle spoke out in 1992 against the Murphy Brown episode positively depicting birth out of wedlock he was excoriated in the media. That is, until somebody brought some sanity to the debate and that was Barbara Whitehead, a PhD in American social history who published an article in Atlantic Monthly entitled, “Dan Quayle Was Right.” She has expanded her treatment in a new book called The Divorce Culture in which she documents all the things that go wrong for kids when divorce happens: loss of stability, economic hardship, anxiety and stress, custody battles, adjusting to step-parents, decreased parental involvement.
  - In just over 20 years the number of unmarried American couples living together has increased 8 fold to 4 million. More than half of all couples now cohabit before

marrying. It's supposed to be the smart way to check out your partner. The results are dismal. Half of them break up before marriage and the other half within 10 years of when they marry. (Elizabeth Stalcup, "Why Can't We Just Live Together?" Ministries Today, May/June 1997, p.37-38)

- Sending your student off to a university this month? Details magazine reported on a survey that claimed that the average college student has had 6.4 sex partners. Harvard surveyed 18,000 undergraduates and found that 44% said they had "engaged in binge drinking-four to five drinks in a row-in the previous two weeks." (Adam Cohen, "Battle of the Binge", Time, September 8, 1997, p.54) That's what killed 20 year old Benjamin Wynne last week at LSU.
- The Snohomish Sheriff's Office is asking the help of the public for clues in apprehending a man who last week attempted to lure a 9 year old girl into his car while she was picking blackberries near Thrashers Corner. (Snohomish Tribune, Wednesday, September 3, p.9)
- Twelve year old Malcolm Shabazz was sentenced to at least 18 months at a juvenile center for setting the June 1 blaze that killed his loving grandmother.
- Cain killed his brother, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, Miriam and Aaron rebelled against Moses, Absalom committed treason against David.
- Because of this, the Bible repeatedly admonishes fathers to love their children and to not treat them harshly. Mothers are admonishes to love their children. Children are admonished to obey and honor their parents and to listen hard to their counsel.
- Free range children—subway in New York
- Examples from daily newspaper

## CONCLUSION

DISCUSSION: HOW DOES THIS QUOTE TOUCH YOUR HEART WITH THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF THE LOST WORLD? C. S. Lewis: *Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.* [from *The Weight of Glory*]

- A. A couple of weeks ago, **Steve Jobs** and Bill Gates were on the phone sealing the deal that hopefully will bring Apple out of the doldrums. Crouching on a stage with a cell phone to his ear, Steve ended the conversation with the words, headlined on the cover of Time magazine (August 18, 1997), "*Bill, thank you. The world's a better place.*"
- B. I'm not so optimistic. Is there something wrong with me? Am I missing something?
- C. I agree with something **Samuel Zwemer** said a long time ago: "*He who sets out to change individual lives is an optimist, but he who sets out to change society without first changing the individual is a lunatic.*" (S. M. Zwemer)
- D. That's a pretty good summary for the burden of this book of Romans. Society is a mess because people are a mess. And the only hope for me and you and our country and our world is in the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to change lives one by one. Paul looked out on a cultural landscape that was every bit as threatening as ours, moreso in many ways. He clearly saw the foolishness, the shame and the danger of the world wallowing in all its sin. But he wasn't discouraged....he was pumped. Listen to how Paul introduces the section we have just been studying this morning, "*14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*"

- E. So what's a Christian to do with this dark message about the world? Turn on the light. Live a pure life and preach a pure Gospel.
- F. Luis Palau saw it work in Lima Peru. Rosario was born out of wedlock in the slums outside Lima. By 18 she was a militant communist and atheist. She was trained as a revolutionary in Cuba and became the assistant of one of Lima's famed Communist revolutionaries, Guevara. She hated upper class people and shed their blood without remorse. Then she was sent to Lima on a communist mission in December, 1970.  
**STORY from God Is Relevant by Luis Palau, p.40**
- G. **Billy Graham** says "*It's back to the Bible or back to the jungle.*"
- H. Pastor **Rick Warren** asks: *In the next 365 days, 235,000 Californians will die. Will they head into a Christ-less eternity? In the next 365 days, 2.3 million Americans will die. Will they head into a Christ-less eternity? In the next 365 days, 54 million worldwide will die. Will they head into a Christ-less eternity?* (*Pastors.Com*, Jon Walker, "Warren: working on the things that matter," 11/15/02)

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