

POWER OF PRAISE

by: Liz Wahl Andre'

“The Rejection of God—Proof of Man’s Guilt”

The Bible clearly declares that all mankind is guilty before God and will be without excuse on Judgment Day. The reasons for man’s guilt are two-fold: although evidence of our Creator is seen through His awesome handiwork, sinful man does not give Him glory or thanks. Romans 1: 18-23 states: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest to them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**, because although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened. *Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things.* Evolution is nothing new; it is a false religion invented by those who do not want to give an account for their lives before a holy God. Darwin, the modern father of the *theory* (it has never been proven) of evolution knew this. The theory of evolution is taught as legitimate “science” in schools and universities and has shipwrecked the faith of multitudes.

Unbelief, selfishness and ingratitude reside in the heart of sinful man, and are the roots of sin. The Bible goes on to list the “results” of man’s guilt: creature worship (idolatry), homosexuality, perversion, and a host of other sins that have permeated our society. Those wanting to legitimize sexual perversion can be seen shamelessly parading on primetime television and winning their agenda in the courts for the “right” to indoctrinate school children with the “new normal.” “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie*, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of the error which was due. *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting*, being filled with unrighteousness, sexual immorality,

wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practiced them” (Romans 1: 24-32).

What a frightening truth: the Creator of the Universe has given willfully sinful men up to uncleanness, vile passions, and debased minds.

No wonder Jesus told Nicodemus, a priest who came to Jesus seeking truth, that “he who believes in Him is not condemned; but ***he who does not believe is condemned already***, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3: 18). The knowledge of sin and the conviction of the Holy Spirit provoke two reactions: either one will experience the fear of the Lord and repent (turn) from his sinful ways, seeking Jesus for his salvation; or he will become enraged and desire to destroy the messenger. ***“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light lest his deeds should be exposed”*** (John 3: 18-19). It is impossible to turn from sin unless there is first a knowledge of sin, and then an agreement with God’s word stating that all sin is displeasing to God and leads to hell, death and destruction. We have to know that we are lost before we can be found.

The good news of the gospel is that God sent His Son Jesus to shine upon our darkened hearts so that we could be pulled out from the pit of sin and death: ***“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him the world might be saved” (verse 17)***. And how do we receive salvation? It is so simple a child can understand it: repent and believe! “For God so loved the world that whoever gave believes in Him that He His only begotten Son, should not perish but have everlasting life” (verse 16). “Repent, and let everyone one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2: 38). You can experience abundant life, freedom from sin’s power, and the unfading joy that comes through being accepted by the Father. You can receive the love of God and rest assured in His promise to forgive you and give you everlasting life.

“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”—Jesus (Mat. 18:11)

