



# SESSION 2

ROMANS 1:18 – 3:20

The three classes of mankind: all guilty !



# The three classes of mankind

## 1. The uncivilized people

Romans 1:18-32

- *The Barbarians (V. 14), the pagans*
- *The ungodly*
- *The unwise*

## 2. The civilized people

Romans 2:1-16

- *The Greeks (1:14)*
- *the self-righteous*
- *The wise*

## 3. The religious people

Romans 2:17-29

- *God's people on earth (Jews)*
- *Under the law*
- *Certain knowledge of God and His will*

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ First category: The uncivilised people – the testimony of CREATION

1. *The ancestors of the Gentiles once knew God, but in their pride they refused to worship Him. The development of the people are not from the many idols to the one true God, but vice versa!*
2. *The **decline was gradual**. First foolish reflections, then darkening of the heart and mind, then gross idolatry and finally the worst moral decay.*
3. *Their situation was **God's answer to their responsibilities**. When man gives up God, he can not complain when God gives him up (vv. 24, 26 and 28).*
4. *The last point is the terrible fact that they knew about their evil deeds, but **they enjoyed it and even enjoyed those who sinned like them**.*

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ First category: The uncivilised people (pagans)

- *Are these verses not a serious warning to the people of our time?*
  - *theory of evolution*
  - *denial of the Creator*
  - *moral corruption*

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ Second category: The civilised people

- *The Greeks had a certain outward moral code and were in danger of deceiving themselves.*
- *They broke their own rules.*
- *People who think they are better than others often despise the kindness, patience, and forbearance of God who seeks to lead them to repentance.*

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ Second category: The civilised people

1. God judges *according to the truth*. In the presence of God, the real motives come to light.
2. The judgment of God is *just* without any human weakness.
3. With God there is *no respect of the person*, no preference in any form.

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ Second category: The civilised people

- *Verses 12-16 show that every person is responsible before God.*
- *People who nowadays have a Bible are more responsible than those who do not know the Word of God.*
- *But every human being has a conscience and can know God. He got it from the creator.*
- *Therefore, there is no excuse on the day of judgement.*

# The three classes of mankind

## ■ Third category: The Jews (v. 17-29)

- *They had the testimony of the **creation**.*
- *They had the testimony of the **conscience**.*
- *They also had the **God-given law**.*
- *They had some **knowledge of God and His will**.*
- *They took **precedence over all others** in relation to God.*
- *Their sins **weighed heavier** than that of the Gentiles who knew nothing of God.*



# The three classes of mankind

## ■ Third category: The Jews (v. 17-29)

- *They fell into the error of considering the law something they could be proud of.*
- *They were condemned by their own law (many OT quotations)*
- *Some serious questions to the conscience of a righteous Jew in verses 21-23!*
- *Are we Christians not in a similar danger?*
- *Verses 25-29 can also be applied to us Christians:*
  - Many have external ecclesiastical forms such as baptism, confirmation and church weddings.
  - They count themselves Christians, but have not experienced true conversion and new birth.

# Critical questions - Romans 3:1-8

- The apostle Paul asks the critical questions from the side of the Jews and answers them according to God.
  - *The advantage of the Jews was indeed great.*
  - *A confrontation with a person who wants to argue with his own wisdom about God and his actions.*
  - *Man in his unbelief can not influence the faithfulness of God in any way.*
  - *God will always have the last word.*

# All people are guilty before God

- The statements about the different categories of people end with a common conclusion:
  - *“that they are all under sin”* V. 9
  - *“as it is written”* (V. 10) :
    - *There is none righteous, no, not one.*
    - *There is none that understandeth.*
    - *There is none that seeketh after God.*
    - *There is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
    - *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

# All people are guilty before God

- The compilation of these verses is like a net so fine that the smallest fish can not find a loophole to escape.
- All sins are the consequences of a negative attitude towards or the rejection of God.
- Because all men are guilty before God, each one of them also urgently needs the salvation offered by God.