



**Guilty**

Romans 1b

*Rome*

**Justified by Faith**

Romans 3:28

**El Capitan**

Apostle Paul, c. 1657  
by Rembrandt

FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class  
Michael G. Maness  
see  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)



William Henry Jackson's 1899 photograph

## Yosemite Valley

- If the Yosemite Valley is the New Testament
- Then El Capitan is the book of Romans

Reformer Martin Luther, 1483-1546,

**“This epistle is really the chief part of the N.T. and is truly the purest gospel.”**

Puritan Thomas Draxe, d. 1618, said Romans is

**“Quintessence of perfection of saving doctrine”**

**Romans 3:28**

**El Capitan**

- if Romans is El Capitan of the New Testament

**Summit of El Capitan**

**3,000 feet up**

is

**Romans 3:28**

**All of Romans leads to and from 3:28**



All Roads lead to Rome ... they say ...

All of Romans leads **to** and **from 3:28**

Romans 3:28

**KJV** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified  
by FAITH without the deeds of the law.

**NIV** For we maintain that a person is justified  
by FAITH apart from the works of the law.

After this verse ... all look back to this verse

... and how to apply this verse





1. **Compelled** 1:1-17 & 15:14 to 16:27 **Salutation/Epilogue**
- ★ 2. **Guilty** 1:18-32 **Wrath vs. Revelation**
3. **No Favorites** 2:1-29 **God Judges Heart**
4. **Justified, pt 1** 3:1 to 4:25 **Justified by Faith**
5. **Justified, pt 2** 3:21 to 3:31 **Justified by Faith**
6. **Chapters 5-15**

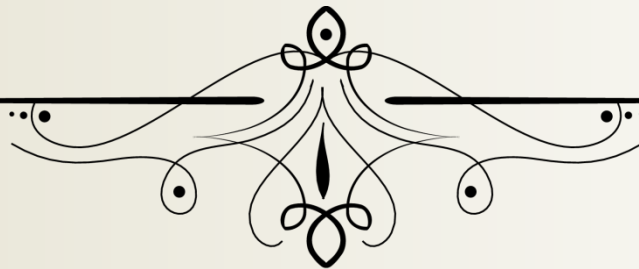


## Theme

# Ignoring God leads to destruction

### Romans 1:18-32

- |         |                        |                           |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1:18-20 | Revealed in Nature –   | Eternal Power from Heaven |
| 1:21-23 | Replaced by Nonsense – | Foolish in Their Hearts   |
| 1:24-28 | Delivered Over –       | God Gave them Over        |
| 1:29-32 | Deserving Death –      | Evil and Depravity        |



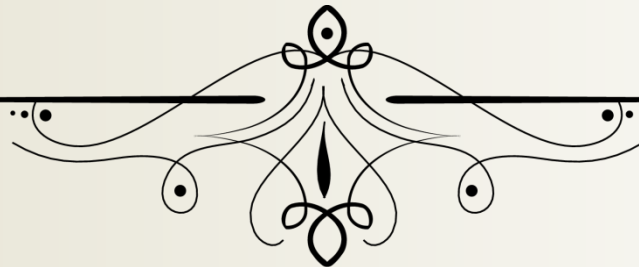
# El Capitan

- Before we climb ...
- You know it is very  
**Dangerous**
- **ROCKY ... Steep**  
**Dangerous**
- Many will turn away  
**Dangerous**



## Key Verse Romans 1:20

**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 people are without excuse.**





1:18-20 Revealed in Nature –  
Eternal Power from Heaven

**18** The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven  
against all the godlessness and wickedness of people,  
who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Okay ... before we deal with the WRATH of God ...

Recall WHO Paul was writing to ... to people DEAR to him ...

He listed MANY in chapters 15-16 ...

*one like a mother to him* ... ... MANY very DEAR to him

Plus ... Paul was DEAR to them too ...

**Paul Loved Them – those he knew & . . . knew NOT**



**18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,**

**Most of all ... notice a portion of NEXT week's lesson**

**Romans 2:1: "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else ...**

**who ... do the SAME things."**

**Do NOT take these *pre-El-Capitan Climbing* verses out of order**

**They are typical of Paul's candor ... Paul's resoluteness**

**Very typical of Paul's clarity on cleaning OUT the clutter**

**There is a LOT of evil in this world ... and in the church too**



Paul *knows* the meaning of **LIFE IN ROME . . .**

Taylor Caldwell's 1959 *564-page* magisterial book, *Dear and Glorious Physician—A Novel about St. Luke*

She wrote 40 novels, many of them best sellers

Many fictional biographies VAST in historical research

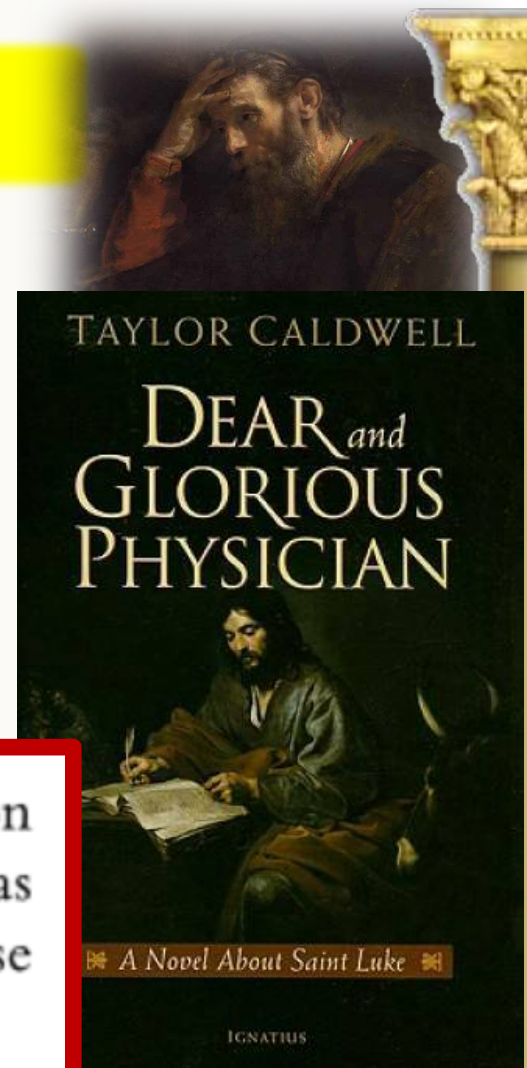
. . . the first sentences of her Foreword go are:

This book has been forty-six years in the writing. The first version was written when I was twelve years old, the second when I was twenty-two, the third when I was twenty-six, and all through those years work did not cease on this book.

She describes the Roman world and training of Dr. Luke ...

Imagine a world of absolute dictatorship ...

**Caesar RULES**



1:18-20 Revealed in Nature –  
Eternal Power from Heaven

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven  
against all the godlessness and wickedness of people,  
who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Did you see that? ... the “wrath of God” ... “revealed”

Last week ... we saw in the “Gospel” ... the

“Righteousness of God revealed”

A play on words ... but also seriously important contrast ...

**MORE** of God that is revealed ... **WORSE** humankind appears



**1:18-20 Revealed in Nature –  
Eternal Power from Heaven**

- 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,**
- 19 since 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 people are without excuse.**

**WHO has made it CLEAR?**

**GOD Made it PLAIN to them ... to us.**



Now then ... **WHAT** was MADE PLAIN?  
v. 20 ... His Eternal Power & Divine Nature ...

If such is NOT self-evident to you TODAY ...

As Jeff Foxworthy might say  
*You just might be a Redneck ...*



**20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—a powerful ... comprehensive ... incomparable verse**



**Reformer John Calvin 1509-1564 said it so eloquently:**

**It is ... vain that so many burning lamps shine for us in the workmanship of the universe to show forth the glory of its Author. Although they bathe us wholly in their radiance, yet they can of themselves in no way lead us into the right path.**



**Nature points to God ... only Christ can take us to the THRONE**

**Nature reveals God's glory ... only Christ can reveal God's person**

**Now then ... what was MADE PLAIN?**  
**v. 20 ... His Eternal Power & Divine Nature ...**

**If such is NOT self-evident to you TODAY ...**

**If such is NOT obvious ... plain ... clear ... EASY to SEE ...**

**As Jeff Foxworthy might say**

***You just might be a Redneck ...***

**God LIVES ...**

**His Glory is in the delicacy of the Wild Flowers**

**God LIVES ...**





# v. 20 ... His Eternal Power & Divine Nature

His Glory is in the infinity of the  
**Starry Nights**



For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities  
—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen



Video not in online PDF

1:21-23 Replaced by Nonsense – Foolish in Hearts

21 For although they knew God, they neither

neither glorified him as God  
nor gave thanks to him,

God expects  
**BOTH**

but their thinking became futile and  
their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise,

**they became fools**

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God  
for images made to look like a  
**mortal human being**



Emperor Caligula  
A.D. 37-41

22 ... they became fools

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God  
for images made to look like a mortal human being  
and birds and animals and reptiles.

Evil of a Pagan Empire ...

Today ... atheistic scientists **RULE**

**Weak MINDS**



Roman god Jupiter

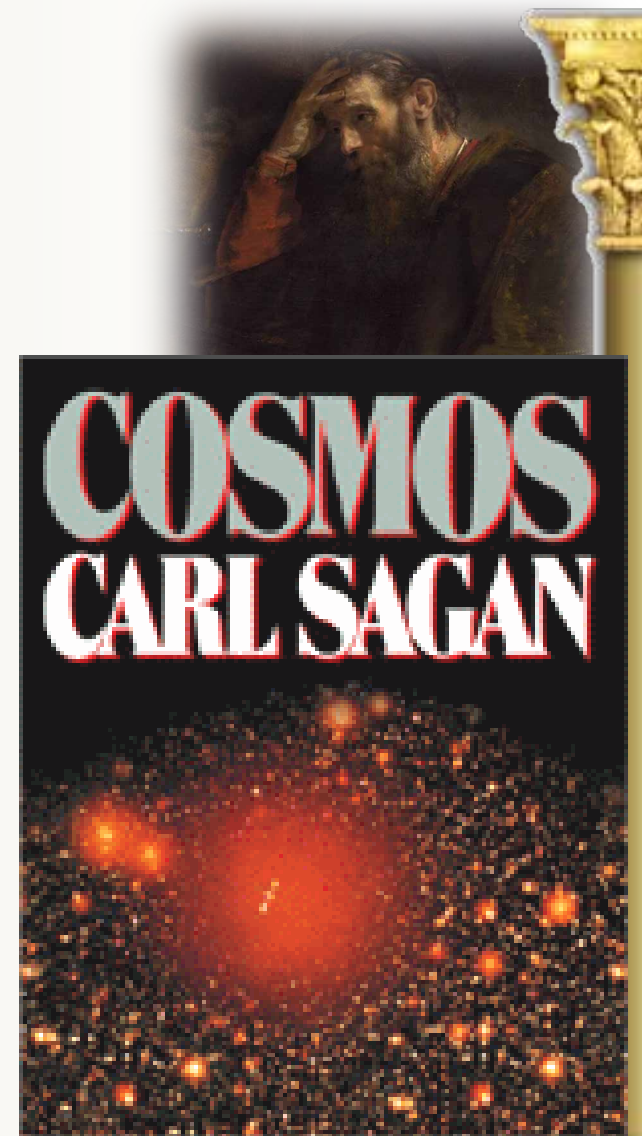
In 1980 ... Carl Sagan wrote the book *Cosmos*  
13 chapters corresponded to a 13-episode series  
50 weeks on *Publisher's Weekly* Best-Sellers List  
70 weeks on *New York Times* Best-Seller List ...  
BEST-Selling science book of all time ... *to that point*  
Sequel in 1994 >>

*Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*

*Cosmos* – chosen by U.S. Congress one of 100 that  
“Shaped America”!<sup>1</sup>

“Shaped America” *indeed* ...

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-13-005/books-that-shaped-america-on-amazon/2013-01-22/>

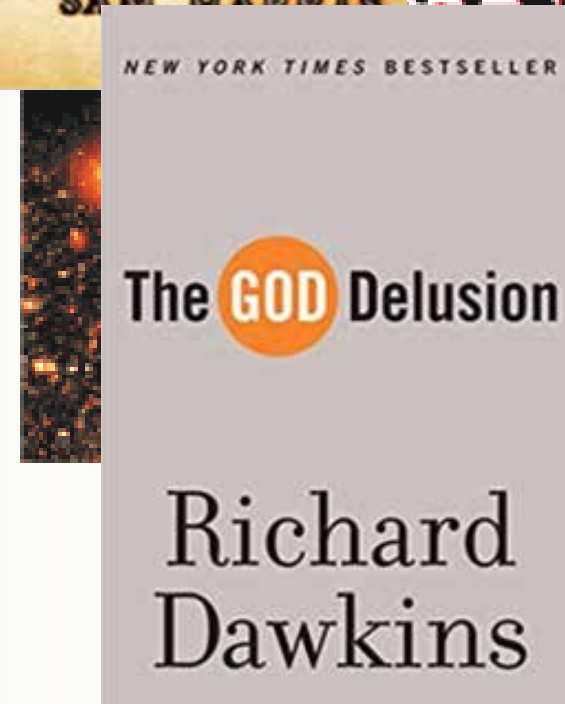
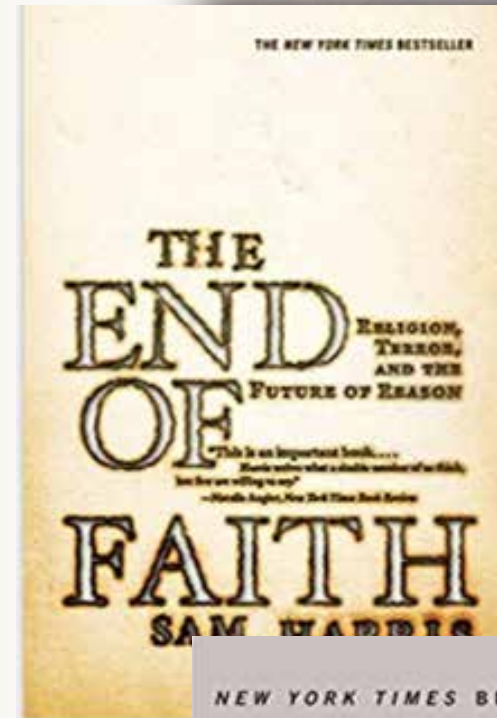


In 1980 ... Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*  
"Shaped America" ... became one of the  
Most Evangelistic Book for Atheistic Science!  
Made Sagan rich and famous ...  
Sagan did NOT attack religion DIRECTLY ...

Neuroscientist Sam Harris 2005 *End of Faith*  
*attacks on "faith" itself came from SCIENTISTS*

Scientist Richard Dawkins 2008 *The God Delusion*

These and many more ...



Neuroscientist Sam Harris in 2015 wrote a  
*New York Times* best-seller

*Waking Up—*

*A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion*

Evolution as FACT corrects Religion ...

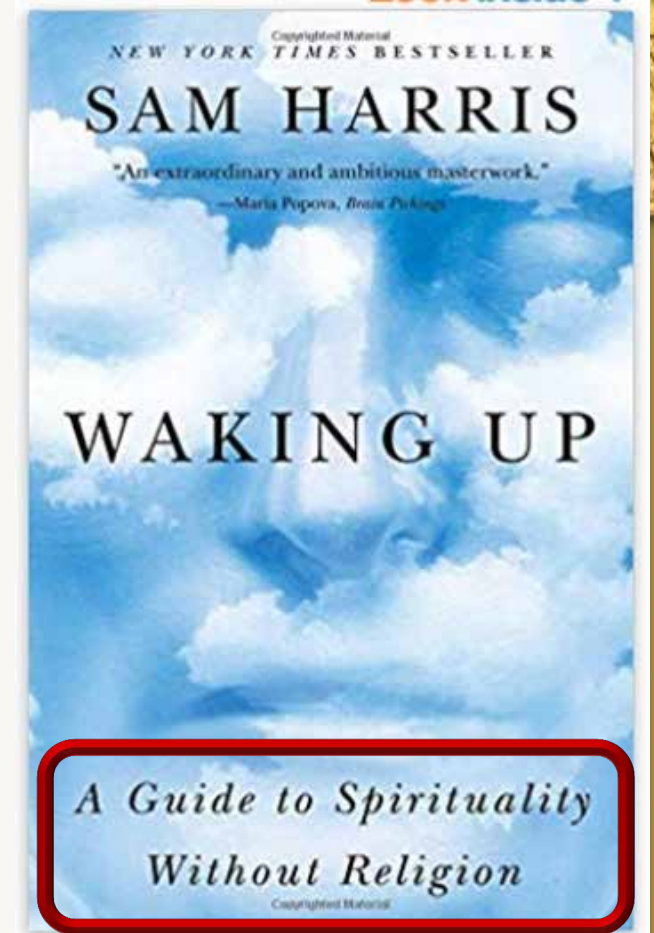
Many scientists are NOT as hostile ...

Many ARE ... like Sam Harris

These SCIENTISTS assault the Fairy Tale of God

Sam Harris is brutal ... “Faith” is a farce

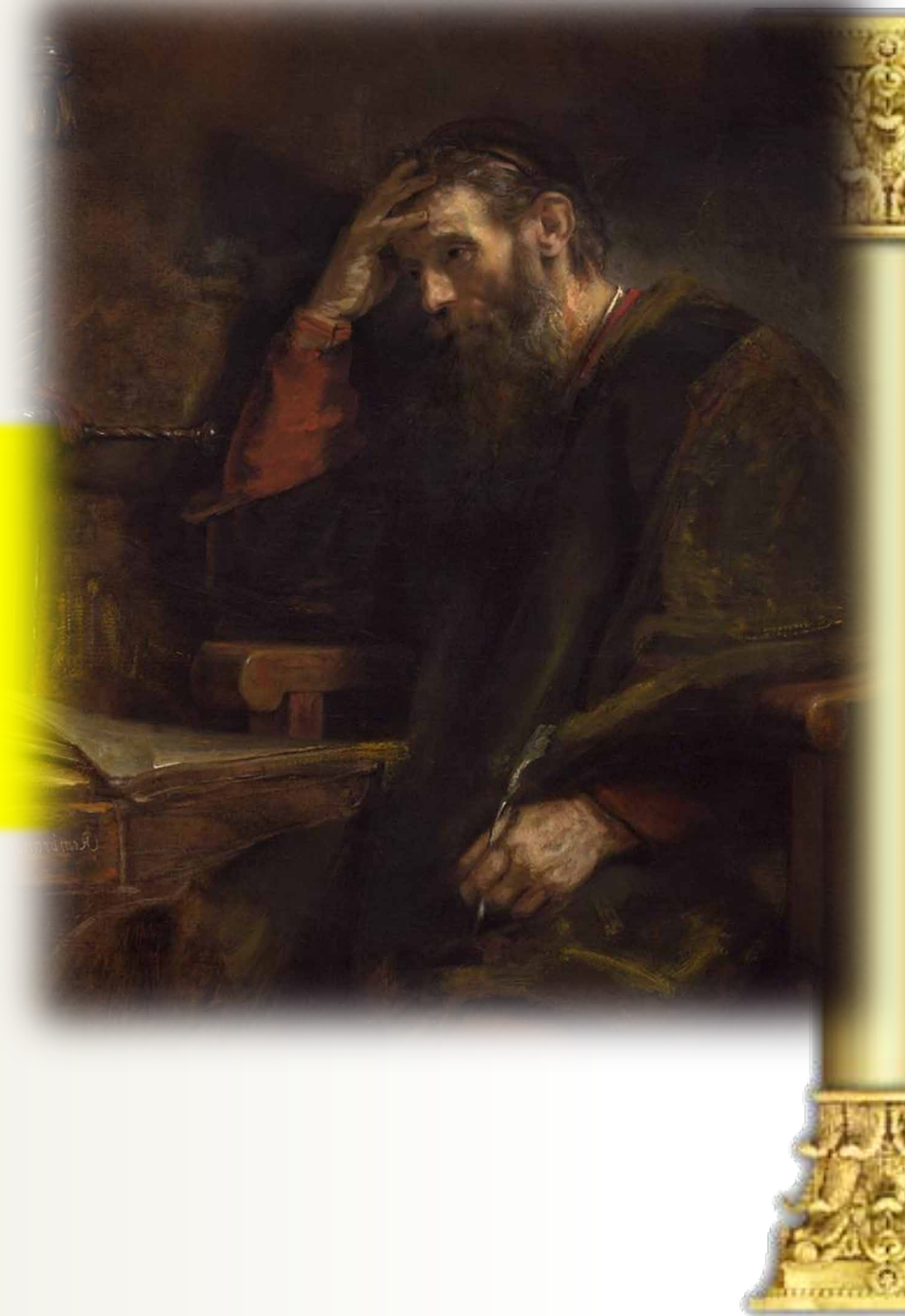
Religion is idiocy ... a scam ... a fool’s game for the weak



**Paul is writing to Christians in ROME**

**Many VILE rulers of the World**

**Paul is writing to us, today ... in the USA**





**1:24-28 Delivered Over – God Gave them Over**

**24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.**

**25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.**

**26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.**



1:24-28 Delivered Over – God Gave them Over

27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.



Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

**What is going on?**

**What they doing ... Paul made crystal clear ...**

**Against NATURE ... homosexuality is against NATURE**

**Sodom and Gomorrah in ROME**

**27** In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.



**What is going on?**

**Paul is contrasting Idolatry with Homosexuality**

**Worship of Idols and Worship of Sex/Homosexuality**



**Turn Nature Upside Down**

**They Assault the Glory of God**

1:24-28 Delivered Over – God Gave them Over

**28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.**



**No peace for a man/woman whom GOD abandons  
and certainly ...**

**No Peace on Earth**



**1:29-32 Deserving Death – Evil and Depravity**

**29-30 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.**

**They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.**

**They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful;**

**they invent ways of doing evil;**

**they disobey their parents;**

**31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.**

**A Terrible Life**



Last . . . but not least . . .

**32** Although they know God's righteous decree  
that those who do such things **deserve Death**,

Now Paul is NOT talking about KILLING everyone

Quarterly referred to "penalty of sin is death"

Yet, Paul is talking about the **GOD's Death Penalty.**

Paul is NOT talking about killing all homosexuals ...

Anymore than Paul is talking about killing all GOSSIPERS

Yet ... if one **LIVES ALL** of the ABOVE ... **God's degree** is they

**DESERVE Death**



32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things **deserve Death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.



Therefore, the Lesson today is:

**No God = No Peace**