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Romans

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,... Romans 1:20

“For” gar in Greek is our connector to the previous verse which said that God’s wrath comes as a result of our thoughts and actions and in the suppression of the truth about who He is and our accountability to Him. He has shown it to us and yet we ignore Him. “For” since the creation of the world – meaning the moment that all things came into existence. The fact that anything exists at all confirms a Necessary Being; a Being that cannot not exist. We know this because the universe simply could not exist; it is contingent on something else to be and continue on being.

This is spoken of by Paul in Colossians 1:17 – “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” It is mentioned again in Hebrews 1:3 – “...and upholding all things by the word of His power...” As noted in the previous verse, even if the Bible weren’t the Word of God, it still proclaims these self-evident truths and thus it validates what Paul is saying about our relationship to Him.

And not only is simply being here proof of the existence of God, but what is here shows us who He is – “His invisible attributes are clearly seen.” The universe displays immense wisdom in its timed perfection. Therefore, whatever created this timed perfection must be even greater. The harmony of nature shows

wisdom at every turn – the structure of DNA is more intricate than we can possibly imagine; a spider’s web is geometrically woven, immensely strong, highly flexible, and marvelous in its design; the galaxies stretch off beyond our range of sight – each immense and stupendous in complexity. And yet, all of the created order must be less glorious than the Creator who made it. Despite this, man in his desire to pursue unrighteousness ascribes all of this design to random chance.

Despite our denials though, the truth is “understood by the things that are made.” The 2nd Psalm shows us the wickedness of humanity and our desire to cast off the rule and authority of God –

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.” (vss. 1-3)

Man takes his stand. He writes books about the cosmos which theorize a universe without God in control and where man is supreme over his destiny. The governments of the world attempt to show there is no God by inventing “global cooling” and then 20 years later “global warming.” “Do you see...there is no God! We need to act!” But then their theory is shown false and so they further refine their cry against “climate change” which can mean anything and therefore it means nothing. It is man taking counsel together against their Creator.

But Paul goes on by stating that their folly is even an attack against “his eternal power and Godhead.” The truth of God is denied, but the truth of “gods” isn’t. By their words and actions, they admit forces beyond their understanding but which aren’t ultimate in nature; they aren’t the true God. However, the creation itself demonstrates that He is omnipotent and it even gives us the ability to perceive the Godhead. This word is theiotes and is speaking of his divine nature. We deny God and we deny that He is God, even though He proclaims Himself in every aspect of the created order. And His response to their folly is found in the 2nd Psalm as well –

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: (vss. 4-5)

His wrath will come forth against them and when it does, Paul says “that they are without excuse.” He uses the Greek term *anapologetus* which is literally translated “no defense.” There will be no one to stand next to them to defend them because as rational, moral beings they are accountable to their Creator. There will be no philosophical or logical argument which will stand up against the Source of all wisdom and logic. And there will be no thing they can use in their defense, because God is the Creator of all things and therefore all things bear His mark of ownership. When Paul says, “they are without excuse” it means that they will stand completely and absolutely exposed before Him. There will be no hope.

Life application: As you look around you today, notice the wisdom and creativity of the Lord in all you see. Ponder it and give Him the credit He is due.