

The Book of Romans

The Great Decline

Romans 1:18-32

In a word, the nature of God (at least the Christian God) is repugnant to man and is not the focus of desire or wish-projection. Man's desire is not that the omnipotent, personal Judeo-Christian God exist, but that He not exist. The New Testament sees not only atheism but human-fabricated religion as being grounded in such antipathy toward the true God.

(R.C. Sproul, *If there's a God, why are there atheists?* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1978), 57-58.)

Revelation

General or Natural Revelation

- General or Natural Revelation is the knowledge of God that is found in creation. *Romans 1:18-20, Psalm 19:1-6*
- All men are confronted with the knowledge of God in creation. *Romans 1:20*
- The content of this knowledge of God is not clear. It most likely refers to the truths that there is a God and he is all-powerful. *Romans 1:20*
- This revelation is not sufficient to save, it can only condemn. The dilemma of the one who has never heard the gospel is answered clearly by the Scriptures. All those God plans on saving will hear about the gospel and they will believe it and be saved. All those who never heard were not of the elect and did not want to be saved. *Romans 10:14-15*

Special Revelation

Special Revelation is the knowledge of God for salvation. This knowledge must be given by God and is not available from creation. Scripture is special revelation. *2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 19:7-14*

The Psychology of Romans 1

(Sproul, pages 72-78.)

Trauma

Because man is born with a God-hating heart he experiences conflict when he is confronted by the knowledge of God.

Repression

The knowledge of God in creation does get through to man but he suppresses that which is obviously true.

Substitution

Fallen man exchanges the true picture of God for a distorted picture of God. This distorted picture is much easier to handle and is easier for the God-hater to live with.

What is the True and Living God Really Like?

Revelation of the Glory of God

See additional notes on "*The Glory of the God Most High*"