



# GRACE-POWERED LIVING

## A Study of the Book of ROMANS

WHAT EVERY ATHEIST KNOWS  
Romans 1:20-23

February 16, 2014 | 9:15 & 10:50am

**Introduction:** “How could a loving God send people to Hell who have never heard about Jesus Christ?” That is a question often posed by unbelievers and believers alike. In today’s passage, Paul is going to answer that question clearly by turning our conventional wisdom about God and “fairness” upside down.

### I. The Unbeliever Has Received A Knowledge Of God (Romans 1:20)

#### A. The Definition of Natural Revelation

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

#### B. The Means of Natural Revelation

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Psalms 19:1-4 “<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. <sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,”

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### C. The Content of Natural Revelation (Romans 1:20)

#### 1. God's Eternal Power

#### 2. God's Divine Nature

Acts 14:15-17 “<sup>15</sup>...Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you in order that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. <sup>16</sup>And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; <sup>17</sup>and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

### II. The Unbeliever Has Rejected His Knowledge Of God (Romans 1:21)

Romans 1:21 “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

“We are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations . . . Materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin, Harvard Biologist

## WHAT EVERY ATHEIST KNOWS

A. We Rebel Against God's Sovereignty

B. We Rebel Against God's Holiness

C. We Rebel Against God's Immutability

III. The Unbeliever Has Replaced His Knowledge Of God (Romans 1:22-23)

Romans 1:22-23 “<sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”

Isaiah 44:14-17 “<sup>14</sup>Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak, and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. <sup>15</sup>Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it. <sup>16</sup>Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he eats meat as he roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, ‘Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire.’ <sup>17</sup>But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, ‘Deliver me, for thou art my god.’”

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Concluding Thoughts:

1. Everyone is **guilty** before God.
2. No one is **saved** apart from faith in Christ.
3. Everyone has a **knowledge** of God.
4. Anyone who wants further **knowledge** of God will receive it.