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Are you wondering, "What is happening in the world?"

Many are wondering, "What is happening in the world?" We observe a growing tide of moral decay, social unrest, and spiritual confusion exhibited by the abandonment of absolute truths for human folly. Secularists believe there is nothing beyond this life. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow, we die" (Ecclesiastes 8:15 and Isaiah 22:13) is their worldview. Secularism denies God a voice in society, and a secularized culture operates as if God does not exist. Besides, they believe humankind can manage life much better itself without granting authority to a divine King. This rejection has bred a dangerous mindset, resulting in an alarming belief that individuals possess no responsibility or accountability to anyone but themselves as all are kings and have no need of any outside assistance from God the Creator.

Romans 1:18-32 offers a sobering insight into this same phenomenon but 2,000 years ago. The passage begins with the declaration that "the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness." Here, the Apostle Paul speaks to a society that has turned its back on the divine truth, preferring instead to embrace a worldview rooted in human desires and self-interest. As humanity strives to distance itself from God, it inevitably suffers the consequences of its choices.

The crux of humanity's current malaise lies in its pervasive belief in self-sufficiency. In a culture where individual autonomy is exalted, accountability takes a back seat. Many now view morality as subjective, conditioning their behavior based on personal whims or social trends rather than divine standards. This shift is echoed in the text when Paul writes, "Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21). It reveals a truth that is as relevant today as it was then: a society that disconnects from God loses its moral compass, spiraling into confusion and darkness. To paraphrase a quote of Fyodor Dostoevsky, "If God is dead, then everything is permissible." Believing such removes any reason to set boundaries, to be rational, or to cultivate civility.

Just witness the tangible manifestations of this principle in our world today. The increase in secularism has led to a shift away from the concept of absolute truth, towards a more flexible morality influenced by societal consensus. This shift is alarming, yet predictable;

as Paul asserts, “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather the Creator...” (Romans 1:25).

The rejection of divine truth brought the consequences Paul highlighted in Romans 1:24-27 mankind’s misguided choices. Not once, but three times in this passage we read that God “gave them over” to their sinful nature. When humankind embraces and celebrates its proclivity to sin, the wrath of God is revealed. God holds humankind accountable for its depravity.

However, amidst the chaos of secularism where it appears God is now in the hands of angry sinners, the message of hope remains anchored in the grace of God. Until we understand the truth of the depravity of sin as Jonathan Edwards preached in Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, a full understanding of the grace of God is impossible to grasp. The preaching of this sermon was a catalyst for the First Great Awakening as thousands came to grips with the reality of their sinful nature, the present and future wrath of God and the unconditional love promise for those who repent and believe in Jesus the Christ.

The initial question, “What is this world coming to?” is answered through the lens of Scripture—specifically, Romans 1:18-32. Please read it several times as humanity's collective rejection of God and the propensity to seek self-rule has fostered a culture devoid of accountability. The resulting consequences are evident in our personal struggles and societal woes. Yet, there lies an opportunity for restoration, anchored firmly in God, embracing His truth, and acknowledging our responsibility to both Him and one another.