

“What May Be Known of God”
Establishing a God-based world view

◆———— “What may be known of God” ———◆

Romans 1:18-25

Men “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness” [v 18]

- ◆ This is not an absolute rejection of ***the concept of truth***
 - By continuing in unrighteousness, people have ***suppressed*** the truth [v18]
 - People have “***exchanged the truth of God for the lie***” [v25]
 - the result of the suppression of truth is a lie that has become their ***new*** “truth”
 - their rejection of ***the*** truth has affected their world view [cp v21-25]



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

← “What may be known of God” →

Romans 1:18-25

Men “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness” [v 18]

- ◆ This is not an absolute rejection of *the concept of truth*
- ◆ God is rightly (*righteously*) **angry** about this rejection [v18]
 - Rejection of truth was a rejection of God Himself [v25; “exchanged”, “worshiped”]
 - cp with Joshua’s injunction “choose...this day whom you will serve” [Josh 24:14-15]
 - without God, man will seek to worship something else, something inferior [v25]



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

←———— “What may be known of God” —————→

Romans 1:18-25

Men “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness” [v 18]

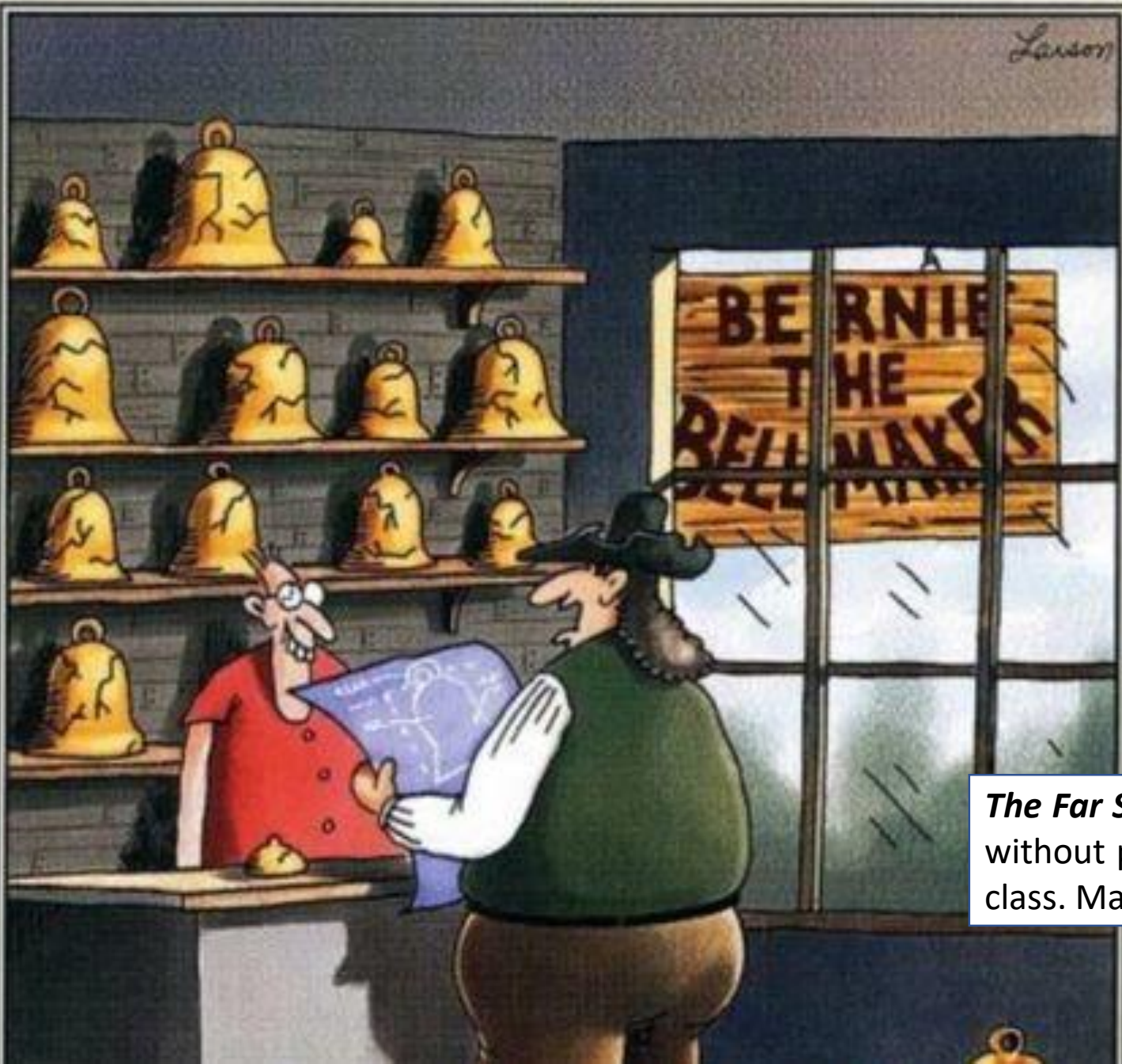
- ◆ This is not an absolute rejection of *the concept of truth*
- ◆ God is rightly (*righteously*) **angry** about this rejection [v18]
 - Rejection of truth was a rejection of God Himself [v25; “exchanged”, “worshipped”]
 - God has manifested **truth** in the created world [vv18-20]
 - In manifesting **truth**, God manifested **Himself** by His created world [vv18-20]



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

9/21/87

Larson



of God” —————>

ness” [v 18]

ncourage **God's** world view

s with this world is **also broken**;
t possibly see properly! [*Far Side*]

The Far Side, copyright 1987, by Gary Larson; used without permission for the express purpose of this class. May not be sold or used for financial gain.

—————>
Corinthians

◀ ————— “What may be known of God” ————— ▶

Romans 1:18-25

Men “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness” [v 18]

This study intends to present and encourage **God’s** world view

- Because of **sin**, this world is **broken**
- Because it is **broken**, any view that **begins** with this world is **also broken**; if you begin with a cracked lens, you cannot possibly see properly! [*Far Side*]
- Consider Paul’s encouragement to Timothy as he taught **the truth** to others: 2 Timothy 2:24-26 “...that they may **come to their senses...**”

The Bible is the answer for presenting God’s world view

- Consider why Paul was preaching the gospel: Rom 1:16-17 [**faith** is the cure!]
- Romans 10:17 tells where **faith** comes from [cp also Deuteronomy 29:29]
- God **used history** to produce what builds our faith [cp Rm 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11]
- It is **by faith** that we understand our universe and please Him [Hb 11:1-3, 6]
- Genesis 1-4 is the **synthesis** of all this, presenting a **faith-based** world view, which claims to be from **outside** this world; thus it is **not a cracked** view!



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

- ① Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
 - I am not saying Gn 1-4 is the **only** method, or that it is **wrong** to begin elsewhere
 - As we study, we truly become Bible **students**, not just “watchers”
 - in a few short studies, **we** learn **how to study** the **Bible**
 - we gain confidence in reading and applying the text ourselves!
 - instead of becoming “convinced”, we become “convicted” – as **disciples** by faith in God’s word, rather than mere “followers” of some approach that has appealed to us



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

- ① Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
- ② This approach **begins with** the Nature of God, of Man, and of Sin in the world
 - It is not a matter of teaching the “right **things**” to do, but the **reason** to do right: **God**
 - cp Jesus’ injunction to the apostles in Matt 28:18-20
 - › He did not say, “teaching them **all things** that I have commanded...”; rather, Jesus said, “teaching them **to observe** all things that I have commanded...”
 - › more than just **knowing** the commandments, it is **having a heart to obey** them!



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

- ① Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
- ② This approach **begins with** the Nature of God, of Man, and of Sin in the world
 - It is not a matter of teaching the “right **things**” to do, but the **reason** to do right: **God**
 - This approach gets “right to the heart of the matter”
 - as we “meet” God, ourselves, and the truth of the world we live in, we also approach some “difficult” topics (religion, evolution, the roles of men and women, what God’s marriage looks like, etc.) – but in context we have a basis for dealing with them



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

- ① Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
- ② This approach **begins with** the Nature of God, of Man, and of Sin in the world
 - It is not a matter of teaching the “right **things**” to do, but the **reason** to do right: **God**
 - This approach gets “right to the heart of the matter”
 - By the time we reach Genesis 4:16 there is a “hanging” question: “How is God going to fix all of this?” – which then leads to further study about Christ and His plan for man



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

- ❶ Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
- ❷ This approach **begins with** the Nature of God, of Man, and of Sin in the world
- ❸ It is an approach that we actually see used in the Bible by God, His messengers
 - God Himself used this approach with Job [Job 38:1-7; etc]
 - Moses **wrote** (received) the Pentateuch to teach Israel who they were [cp Ex 6:2-9; etc]; he **began** with Genesis and who **God** is!
 - King David used this approach [most notably in Psalm 19:1-6]
 - The apostle Paul used this approach with pagans [Acts 14:12-17; 17:24ff] and also with Christians [Romans 1; helpful for **correcting** worldview]



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Benefits of This Approach

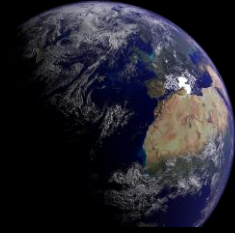
- ① Beginning with Genesis 1-4 uses **the Bible** to build faith
- ② This approach **begins with** the Nature of God, of Man, and of Sin in the world
- ③ It is an approach that we actually see used in the Bible by God, His messengers
- ④ It is an approach that presents **the world view that God Himself revealed**
 - This is what Christians **actually** believe (maybe we need a refresher?), not just some caricature of the ignorant and “religious”
 - The one who is studying may choose to believe or not [remember Joshua 24 “choose for yourselves this day...”], but will **know what the Bible says**



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians

“What may be known of God”

Shall we Study?



“The Nature of God”
a study of Genesis 1



“The Nature of Man”
a study of Genesis 2



“The Nature of Sin”
a study of Genesis 3



“A World Marred by Sin”
a study of Genesis 4



Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians