

## Suppressing Truth

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.” Romans 1:18-19.*

The Bible has much to say about the consequences of unrighteousness. The Law teaches that unrighteousness destroys relationships, so things like murder and adultery are forbidden. The book of Proverbs warns against unrighteousness because it harms the unrighteous person – that unrighteousness is self-inflicting. The Bible teaches against unrighteousness for many reasons, and here in Romans we have another reason: Unrighteousness suppresses truth.

Unrighteousness, whether we realize it or not, is a way of hiding truth. A simple example of this is to tell a lie. Lies keep truth from being seen. The sole purpose of a lie is to hide truth. But this can be applied to all unrighteousness because to hide truth is to hide God. To steal a purse is not only to harm another person but also to hide truth and to keep God from being seen in that moment. The same goes for murder or adultery. Unrighteousness is a way of hiding truth and thus hiding God.

But maybe *hiding* isn't the right word because it doesn't get across the implication of the word *suppress*: That truth is actively working to get out. To be unrighteous is to go head-to-head with living truth. It is, in effect, to work against God's revelation of Himself. To be unrighteous is to try to cram God back into the box from which He's working to show His head. This is why Paul, after writing about unrighteousness suppressing truth, naturally writes about the evident visibility of God. Unrighteousness is to actively work against God's visibility. It is to try to make God invisible.

Of course, working to make God invisible is a futile effort. No human action or decree can erase the reality of God, which is Paul's point. This is why God justly has wrath against unrighteousness and unrighteous people. Let us, then, not grow weary in righteousness because righteousness and unrighteousness are not as simple as do this and don't do that. They are also matters of suppressing truth and demonstrating truth. **[DJR]**