The Wrath and Beauty of God
Romans 1:18-23

This is a hard passage. We live in a pluralistic society that has a lot of opinions and ideas about life, God, creation and our choice to believe any number of things. The wrath of God is the fair and right anger of God. It helps to think about why we resist the concept of the wrath of God. I suggest at least these reasons:

1. We underestimate God's holiness.
Without a good grasp of God's holiness, God's wrath doesn't make sense.

2. We overestimate our goodness.
Without a good grasp of our moral condition compared to God's holiness, His wrath doesn't make sense.

3. The idea of uncompromising justice is foreign to us.
God's justice feels unloving and we primarily want God to be loving.

Paul introduces wrath in the Book of Romans at the same time he gives attention to the beauty of God revealed in creation. The beauty of God is so evident that it is said to be clear and universal. All people at all times in all places are accountable to God for the revelation of His existence, power and beauty.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun. Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV)

Theological Terms:
Transcendence of God - the immensity of God. His greatness and glory; His power, dominion, holiness
Immanence of God - the nearness of God. His love, compassion, grace, forgiveness and mercy.
General Revelation – general truths that can be known about God through His creation.
Special Revelation – specific truths that can be known through His Word and Jesus.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are some thoughts you have about the wrath of God?

2. What are some thoughts you have about the beauty of God?

3. What is it about God that draws you to Him?

4. Spend a few moments in your group talking about the difference between a gospel that begins with people and the gospel that begins with God.

5. What does it mean to suppress the truth? How can we improve our embrace of the truth?

Romans Scripture Memory
(As selected by Pastor Karl – you may want to choose your own memory verses.)

Romans 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 2:2 - Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 4:25 - He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:7 - What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have known what sin was except through the law.

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 9:16 – [Salvation] does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 10:13 – Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 11:11 – Salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 13:10 - Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 14:8 - If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 15:7 - Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 16:27 - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ!