

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." (Romans 1:16-17)

²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; (Romans 3:21-22)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

(Romans 1:18)

Romans 1:18-3:20

- Paul's universal indictment of mankind as under the power of sin and exposed to the wrath of God – both Jew and Gentile

Romans 1:18-3:20

➤ Preliminary Observations

1. What is the Connection to Paul's Argument?
 - the revelation of God's wrath from heaven *explains* the revelation of His righteousness in the gospel
 - God's judgment is the essential condition of His salvation – *deliverance through destruction*

Romans 1:18-3:20

➤ Preliminary Observations

2. How is God's wrath revealed?
 - God's wrath is a present reality active in the world that will culminate in final judgment
 - the "sins" of mankind are the result of God's wrath upon the primal sin of idolatry ("gave them over")

Romans 1:18-3:20

➤ Preliminary Observations

3. Who is in view? – everyone!

- 1:18-31: all humanity, especially “Greeks”
- 2:1-16: the “righteous”, mainly Jews
- 2:17-3:9: explicitly Jews

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident to them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For 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.

²¹For 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. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and 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.

(Romans 1:18-23)

Wrath Revealed

1. Man's Knowledge of God

- every person knows the truth about God's existence and nature
- God has made plain this knowledge of Himself through what He has made

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

(Psalm 19:1-4)

Wrath Revealed

2. Man's Inexcusability before God

- man naturally suppresses this knowledge of God and exchanges it for idolatry
- all people are without excuse for idolatry before the judgment of God

Wrath Revealed

- The reason the saving righteousness of God revealed in the gospel is both good news and urgently needed