

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

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 glorify 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.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

²⁵These who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for even their females exchanged the natural function for that which is against nature, ²⁷and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

²⁸And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

³²and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

(Romans 1:18-32)

Romans 1:18-32

➤ Paul's indictment of the Gentile (pagan) world

- Fundamental problem – an inexcusable, absurd and overt idolatry
- Threefold cycle:
 - 1:21-24: exchange, gave over, dishonoring acts
 - 1:25-27: exchange, gave over, dishonoring acts
 - 1:28-32: rejected, gave over, improper acts

The Great Exchange (pt. 3)

1. The Spring of Moral Evils

- a refusal to retain and respond to the knowledge of God ("they did not approve")
- God's judgment in removing His restraints and giving them to their godless desires
- an "unapproved" mind – an unworthy guide of moral reasoning and willing

The Great Exchange (pt. 3)

2. The Expression of Moral Evils

- shows the broad scope of social evils (harm done to others) produced by the depraved mind
- shows that every form of social evil comes from a rejection of God and failure to worship Him

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

²² deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, as *well* as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness.

²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

(Mark 7:21-23)

The Great Exchange (pt. 3)

3. The Endorsement of Moral Evils

- they give approval to those who practice these social evils (call evil "good")
- they do so while innately knowing of God's moral standard and just judgment

The Great Exchange (pt. 3)

➤ Concluding Questions: (1:18-32)

1. Does this section describe every person?
2. Does this section describe America?
3. How does this section produce hope?