

Romans 1

Preach Jesus

The Just Shall Live by Faith [1:17] Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith alone in Christ alone
Protestant Revival/Millions of Personal Revivals were birthed from these words of Paul the Apostle

- **Peter of Paul:** Writings are the **Word of God**

2 Peter 3:15... consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our **beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things **hard to understand**, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the **rest of the Scriptures**.

[Of Romans...] Great Gospel manifesto to the world [JV McGee]

- Peter an Apostle to Jews
- Paul an Apostle to the Gentiles...

Romans 15:15 ... minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God...

Church of Rome: Primarily Gentile Believers

- **Author:** Written by Paul in Corinth in AD 56 /Carried to Rome by lady named Phoebe [16:1]
- **Recipients:** Home churches in Rome
- **Chronology:** 20 Years after Paul knocked of his horse/After Book of Acts

JV McGee This epistle requires all the mental make-up we have, and in addition, it must be bathed in prayer and supplication so that the Holy Spirit can teach us. Yet every Christian should make an effort to know Romans, for this book will ground the believer in the faith.

Martin Luther: It is the chief part of the NT and the perfect gospel... the absolute epitome of the gospel.

Samuel Coleridge: English poet/ literary critic: “The most profound work in existence.”

G. Campbell Morgan: ...the most pessimistic page of literature upon which your eyes ever rested” and at the same time,

...The most optimistic poem to which your ears ever listened.

- **Paul’s Introduction** 1:1-17 in 3 sections as per Wiersbe
 1. Paul’s **Credentials** vv 1-7
 2. Paul’s **Concern** vv 8-15
 3. Paul’s **Confidence** vv 16-17

I. Greeting Paul’s Credentials

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God...

Paul the Apostle Called and Separated

- **Servant:** *Doulos* Lit. Slave; i.e., Self- enslaved to Jesus Christ. OT slave 6 years freed. Stay willingly ear ring
- **Apostle:** Sent w/commission by One w/authority. 1) Seen risen Christ. 2) Perform sign miracle
- **Called...**

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the **will of God...**

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle?... Have I not **seen Jesus Christ our Lord?**

1 Corinthians 15:9 ... I am the **least of the apostles...**not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. I am who I am by the grace of God

1 Timothy 1:11 [Called] according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was **committed to my trust.**

- Called to be an Apostle
- **Separated...**to preach the Gospel

Acts 9:15 [Jesus to Ananias] Go, for he is a **chosen vessel** of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel 16 For I will show him how many things he **must suffer** for My name's sake.

Galatians 1:15 [I was a Destroyer of Church] ... when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace...

Luke 7:47 [Of sinful woman] ... her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for **she loved much.** Those forgiven much love much. Paul was forgiven much

- **Separated unto the Gospel:** Good News...Absolute forgiveness in Jesus' life/death/resurrection

2 [The Gospel] ... which [God] promised before through **His prophets** in the Holy **Scriptures, 3** concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord...

- **Promise of Gospel in OT:**
 1. First in Gen 3:15 Jesus would one day conquer sin, death, death blow to Satan
 2. Through the Prophets/In the OT Scriptures

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." [c.f. Is. Ch. 52,53]

Acts 26:6 [Gospel was a]promise made by God to our fathers.

Galatians 3:8 ... the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel...

3b... [Jesus]... who was born of the **seed of David** according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the **Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- **Born of Seed of David**

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

1 Chronicles 17:11 [Lord to David]... it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up **your seed after you**, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

- Born of Seed of David
- **Born according to the Flesh...**

Galatians 4:4 ... when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman**, born under the law,

- **Declared** [lit. manifest as] **the Son of God...**
Born of a Woman/Yet the Son of God found in the OT

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a **Child is born**, Unto us a **Son is given**;

Mediator/Intercessor between God and Man the God/Man Jesus Christ

- **Humanity** Child Born
- **Divinity** Son Given

Plan of God a Mystery hidden but alluded to within OT...Revealed in the NT

Romans 16:25 [Last Chapter] ... **mystery kept secret since the world began** 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations...

Good News of God written in the Prophets concerning the coming Messiah King/God-Man Jesus Christ
Risen from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit...That's what I'm taking about...

5 Through Him we have **received grace** and apostleship **for obedience** to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints...**

We have Received Grace...Motivation for Obedience

- As Paul we receive Grace to go to work. Saved by Grace FOR Good Works. Preach the Gospel!

Ephesians 3:8 [I] am less than the least of all the saints, **this grace was given, that I should preach...**

- As Saints we are also called. Grace should lead us to obedience in sharing the Gospel
- **To the Saints in Rome Paul Begins...**

7b... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Grace and Peace:**
 1. No Peace with God without the Grace of God Saved by Grace
 2. No Peace of God without the Grace of God Stand on Grace

Grace: Unmerited Favor/Undeserved Kindness. A gift with no strings

Grace means God did everything...all we need to do is recognize our need and accept the everything
Result? Peace with God because of the Grace of God

II. Desire to Visit Rome Paul's Concern

8 **First**, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

- 1) Who Paul is 2) Who Jesus is 3) Focus on readers...
- Paul thanks God for his Bro's/Sisters

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always...for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

1 Thessalonians 2:13 [For their conversion] ... we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the **word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.**

Paul gives thanks for the fruit God is bearing in those he ministered to
For their faith spoken of THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Romans 16:19 [last chapter encouragement/warning] **your obedience has become known to all.**

9 For **God is my witness**, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that **without ceasing** I make mention of you always in my **prayers**, 10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

- **God is my witness that I pray for you:** IOW's I don't just say it to make you feel better

1 Thessalonians 3:10 ... **night and day praying exceedingly** that we may see your face ...

2 Timothy 1:3 [Paul to Timothy] ... **without ceasing** I remember you **in my prayers** night and day,

- Paul encourages us to do the same...

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 **pray without ceasing**, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

11 For I **long to see you**, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

- **Prayer: Find a way in the will of God to see them...Long to see you**
 1. **Establish** you with Spiritual Giftings
 2. **Encourage** one another in our Mutual Faith/Hope

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

- **Reunited w/Aquilla/Pricilla** who risked their lives for him

13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 ... we wanted to come to you... time and again—but **Satan hindered us.**

Acts 16:6 [Going through Galatia] ... they were **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to preach the word in Asia.

- Paul was hindered in coming to Rome ...

Romans 15:20 ... I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation... **22** For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.

Paul did not want to build on another man's foundation. Rather he wanted to do pioneer work for the Lord – not because it was wrong or bad to continue the work begun through another man, but because there was so much to do on the frontiers.

So, if no Apostle had been to Rome with the Gospel before Paul...**Who founded the Church in Rome?**

- Roman Empire was much bigger than just Rome...Colonies e.g., Philippi, Thessalonica

Those Paul spoke to in Roman colonies brought the Gospel to Rome

- Years earlier...Aquila/Pricilla's home was in Rome to till Claudius commanded all Jews to depart
- Left Rome and were Tentmakers with Paul in Corinth/Ephesus. Back to Rome currently

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus...

Paul was the founder of the church at Rome by "long distance"-by leading folk to Christ who later gravitated to Rome. JV. McGee

- **Paul did not yet visit Rome but knew Rome:** Then Capital of the World "All Roads Lead to Rome"
 1. **Roman Citizen** enjoying its privileges. E.g., no crucifixion for Citizen
 2. Appeared before Roman Magistrates
 3. Protected by Roman soldiers from Religious Jews in Jerusalem

Acts 26:17 [Jesus to Paul] I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles,) to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

- **Hindered** until the time was right to come...God's timing

14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

- **Debtor to all...**felt obligated by God to all men after the grace show to him

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another...

15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

2 Corinthians 6:6 [Paul loved to see people saved] We then, as workers together with [Jesus] also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

- Paul would get to Rome the hard way after sending this letter. Arrive as a Preacher/Prisoner
 1. Arrested in Jerusalem falsely accused
 2. Sent to Rome to be tried before Caesar
 3. Imprisoned/Shipwrecked before arriving at Rome
 4. **Asks church in Rome to pray for his trip there...**

Romans 15:28b... I shall go by way of you to Spain....30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you **strive together with me in prayers** to God for me, 31 that **I may be delivered** from those in Judea who do not believe... [Did Paul know something?]

I do not suppose that Paul guessed that he would be sent there at the government's expense, but he was. The Roman Empire had to find a ship for him, and a fit escort for him, too; and he entered the city as an ambassador in

bonds. When our hearts are set on a thing, and we pray for it, God may grant us the blessing; but it may be, in a way that we never looked for. You shall go to Rome, Paul; but you shall go in chains. [Spurgeon]

- Before he gets to Rome false teachers began to poison the place...**mocking Gospel of Grace**

Romans 3:8 And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"? —as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. **Their condemnation is just.**

Paul's more than ready to fix that...As much as is in me ready to fix it!
I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome

III. The Just Live by Faith: Paul's Confidence in God

- **Theme of the Book of Romans**

Total Depravity of Man Contrasted w/ Righteousness of God
Jesus took our Depravity on the Cross and offers to us His Righteousness

- I am ready to preach that Gospel to you who are in Rome...

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ

- **Not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ**

1. **Q.** Why would Paul be ashamed? On his way to the largest city in world...
2. **A.** A Jewish carpenter died on one their crosses... One of thousands of people crucified?

Yet some will be intrigued...This One is different. This One rose from the dead

- **Gospel:** Good News is the Gospel of Grace alone

1 Corinthians 15:1 ... I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2 by which also you are saved...****3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ **died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was **buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures

Galatians 1:9 ... if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ

16b... for it is the **power of God** to salvation for **everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- **Power of God:** Inherent in the Word itself...not our presentation

Not by our might, not by our power, but by My Spirit says the Lord!

- **Gospel:** Displays the Power of God over the weakness of man

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... **24 but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God and the wisdom of God.**

In the Roman world of Paul's day, men looked for salvation. Philosophers knew that man was sick and needed help. E-pic-te-tus called his lecture room "the hospital for the sick soul." Epicurus called his teaching "the medicine

of salvation.” Seneca said that because men were so conscious of “their weakness and their inefficiency in necessary things” that all men were looking “towards salvation.” Epictetus said that men were looking for a peace “not of Caesar’s proclamation, but of God’s.” [Barclay]

- **Peace with God found in the proclamation of the Gospel:** Power of God to everyone who believes

17 For in it [the Gospel] **the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”**

I am a debtor. I am eager to see you. I am not ashamed to proclaim there is a
Righteousness Apart from the Law...Amazing!

Psalm 40:9 I have proclaimed the **good news of righteousness** In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. **10** I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.

Gospel: The righteousness of God is revealed...
Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone. Period.

Romans 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Romans 9:30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, **even the righteousness of faith...**

Philippians 3:9 [To be...] and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness which is from God by faith...**

The Just shall be Justified by Faith

Habakkuk 2:4 “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the **just shall live by his faith.**”

Galatians 3:11 ... no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “**the just shall live by faith.**”

Hebrews 10:38 Now the **just shall live by faith;** But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

- **Faith to Faith...**

Not from **faith to works**, or **works to faith**; but from **faith to faith**, i.e., only by faith. [Poole]

Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone

Let’s reach as many as possible with the Good News: Righteousness in Christ apart from the Law

- **Gospel:** Exchanging our sin for His righteousness
 1. World is broken/People are broken/We are born broken
 2. We are all born sinners separated from God
 3. Jesus paid for our sin on the Cross/Rose from the dead
 4. **Ask Him to forgive you of all sin...Receive His Eternal Life**

I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ

Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone...

Romans 1:18 [Read] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

The Apostle Paul paints a Dark Picture: The Total Depravity of man exemplified by complete /total rejection of his Creator leading God's wrath. Rejecting Creation is rejection of our Creator and begins a digression into darkness and foolishness and ultimately the **wrath of God unless He steps in** [NJC]

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...
17 For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, **"The just shall live by faith."**

- Righteousness revealed...God's Wrath Declared...

IV. God's Wrath Declared

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

- **Wrath of God:** Punishment for sin/falling short to sins mentioned in chapter

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death... [Eternal Separation from God]

The easiest and laziest way to attack this section in Romans Chapter 1 is to use it primarily to condemn the sin of homosexuality...but that is not the correct exegesis of the text in context. The sin of homosexuality is a *result* of God's wrath not the *primary cause* which is man's original sin; denying the undeniable God by actions of our own will, of which we are all guilty. [NJC]

We are not sinners because we sin...We sin because we are sinners. Thus...
The greatest threat to all humanity is not Climate Change but God's Wrath

- **Wrath Revealed from Heaven:** Described later: God giving us over to sin
- **Wrath on Mankind:** Creator's wrath on His creation. **Creation guilty of...**

1. **Ungodliness** Sin against God Irreverence/Disrespect/Rebellion/Apathy
2. **Unrighteousness** Sin against man Bitterness/Hatred/Malice/Murder
3. **Suppression** Denial of God Accountability to God/Existence of God

- **Suppress:** Lit. Hold down the truth. To know what is true and argue it's not. Yet...

No one can truthfully say “I did not know there was a God”. Why?

19 ... because what may be known of God is manifest in [among] them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made

God has revealed Himself through Creation

God has shown Himself to Every man/woman on Earth since Creation...by Creation

- God’s invisibleness can be clearly seen in Creation [Attributed not in orig.]
- God’s invisibleness can be understood by what He made

20b... even His eternal power and Godhead...

- **Eternal Power:** Creating and Sustaining power over everything
- **Godhead revealed in Creation:** Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters

- **In the beginning 'ēlōhîm:** heb. plural form of God. Not more than one God but...
- **Triune God of Creation:** One God revealed in three Persons

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness

Genesis 11:7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language

- **Godhead:** Father, Son and Holy Spirit revealed in creation v20

Father to Son and Holy Spirit: Let us make man in Our image/Our likeness

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

- Eternal Creating/Sustaining Power holding it all together...for now

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

God has revealed Himself to all men through Creation...by Creation

20c... so that they [we] are without excuse...

Psalms 19:1 [David] The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

- Nothing hidden from the Light of Creation

Revelation [Light] always demands a response

Change glory of God into man/birds/beasts/creeping things?

- **Roman Idols:** Mostly demigod's: Zeus, Jupiter, Venus, Neptune, Aphrodite

Genesis 6:4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, **men of renown.**

- Behind every idol is a **demon**

1 Corinthians 10:20 ... the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have **fellowship with demons.**

- Paul will preach repentance to the Romans when he gets there...

Acts 14:15b... [We] preach to you that you should **turn from these useless things** to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them...**17b** He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, **filling our hearts with food and gladness."**

- **American Idol's:** Demon behind each...
 1. **Lust of the Eyes** Money more than Jesus
 2. **Lust of the Flesh** Pleasure more than Jesus
 3. **Pride of Life** Status more than Jesus

Anything/Anybody we love more than Jesus: Idol w/Satan pulling us away from Christ
Man was created to worship and if not God... he will worship something [NJC]

- **Digression into Darkness**
 1. God reveals His truth
 2. Man suppresses God's revealed truth

Change takes Place: Self-Deception takes Hold...

3. **Thoughts Futile** Confused/Depressed/Demented/Angry
4. **Hearts Darkened** Perverse Desires... DNA of life devoid of Holy Spirit
5. **Foolishness** Begin to worship idols never satisfy...

24 Therefore...

As man rejects his Creator for the Creation...**Another Change takes Place**

24b... God also **gave them up** to uncleanness, in the **lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies** among themselves...

We may ask ourselves what's going on today? **A.** God's Wrath is being revealed
God gave them up...

- **Uncleanness** Dirty Body/Mind w/out caring
- **Lust of Heart** Desire, craving, longing, forbidden desire. rt. Turn upon a thing
- **Dishonor of Body** Bodies despised/ Treated shamefully

Q. What happens when we reject God as Creator of our physical Bodies?

A. We eventually dishonor our physical bodies w/others for self-gratification/Self worship

DNA of a life devoid of the Holy Spirit

- God gave them up because these are...

25 ... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- Exchanged the truth of God for the lie...what lie?

God is not our Creator: Idolatry culminating in the lie of macro Evolution
Suppression of the Obvious Truth: If there is a Creation there must be a Creator

26 For this reason...

- Because we're told we are animals devoid of purpose...begin to lose humanity

26b... God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their **lust for one another**, men with men committing what is shameful, and **receiving in themselves the penalty** of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting...

- **Gave them up** ...to uncleanness
- **Gave them up** ...to vile passions
- **Gave them over** ...to a debased mind

Digression Sequence: Applied Nationally, Within Families as well as Individual Lives

29 ... being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful...

Digression into Darkness began by rejecting God as Creator
Rejecting any accountability to Him...yet gnawing feeling in heart that they still are

- Even a debased mind knows/will not admit God will judge sin...

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, [and] that those who practice such things are deserving of death

- Innately knew God exists by Revelation of Creation
- Innately knew God will rightly Judge
- Innately knew Judgment was Death

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death... [Eternal Separation from God]

32b... [Yet] not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Give hearty approval [[NASB] Applaud those who practice these things [HCS]

The easiest and laziest way to attack this section in Romans Chapter 1 is to use it primarily to condemn the sin of homosexuality...but that is not the correct exegesis of the text in context. The sin of homosexuality is a *result* of God's wrath not the *primary cause* which is man's original sin; denying the undeniable God by actions of our own will, of which we are all guilty. [NJC]

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Every time we do our own will not the Father's we reject God's proper place as Creator and Ultimate Authority in our lives. [NJC]

Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

**The greatest threat to humanity?
Not Climate Change or Covid but the Eternal Wrath of God**

- What do we do now? Seeing wrath is looming? **Paul is not ashamed to tell us!**

Romans 1:16 [God already did it...] For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... **17** For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, **"The just shall live by faith."**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For **God did not** send His Son into the world **to condemn the world**, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- All natural men are somewhere in the digression/due judgment
- Spiritual man has no place to condemn the **natural man in his sin...**

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And **such were some of you. But you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.