

11/5/23

## Romans: 1:18-3:22

### “The Open and Shut Case Against Humanity”

#### The 5 Themes of Romans

- 1) The Problem of Sin
- 2) The Gift of Salvation
- 3) How to Live as a Christian
- 4) God’s Big Plan
- 5) What We’re to Do Now

#### I. Romans 1 & 2 are like a **COURTROOM SCENE** in three acts.

##### 1. Act 1: Why does God get angry?

*“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness...” Romans 1:18 (NIV)*

- “godlessness”: living like God doesn’t exist, or matter, in our lives
- “wickedness”: living without regard for God’s rules or human rules

##### 2. Act 2: Humans are guilty of **IGNORING GOD**.

*“...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because **God has made it plain to them.**”  
Romans 1:19 (NIV)*

*“You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.” Romans 2:1 (NLT)*

*“But He will pour out His anger and wrath on **those who live for themselves**, who refuse to obey the truth and, instead, live lives of wickedness.” Romans 2:8 (NLT)*

##### 3. Act 3: Ignoring God leads to all kinds of **HUMAN WICKEDNESS**.

*“So God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.” Romans 1:24a (NLT)*

**“God gave them over” Romans 1:24, 26, 28**

- It doesn’t mean that God stops loving them.
- It doesn't mean that there is no hope of forgiveness.
- It means God allows them/us to **REAP THE RESULTS OF OUR CHOICES**.

#### II. Paul switches from Prosecuting Attorney to our Defense Attorney and shows **THE HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST**.

*“But now God has shown us a different way of being right in His sight – not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. We are made **right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ** to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.”*

*Romans 3:21-22 (NLT)*

### III. What do we do now?

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

*Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

- 1) **TRUST** in Jesus Christ to take away our sins and make us right with God. (trust, love, follow)
- 2) Don’t **IMITATE** the world. (“Just go with it.”)
- 3) Don’t **ISOLATE** from the world. (“Just hide from it.”)
- 4) Determine to **INSULATE** from the world, wrapped up in God’s protection and transformed by God’s power. (Be salt and light to the world.)

*“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your good deeds shine out for all to see**, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”* Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)

## Keep the conversation going...

1. Think of a time when you were really angry. How did you handle that? Could you have handled it differently/better? How?
2. Paul says that God’s wrath is “*against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.*” What does this tell us about God? What does it tell us about men/mankind?
3. What are some practical ways that we can be salt/light in our world? What is one thing you can start doing this week?