

Romans 1 – 29 November 2020

“The Universal State Of Man”

Introduction

*Paul would have written this on 3rd Missionary trip between 54-58 AD

*He wants to tell this mostly Gentile church of our great salvation.

*Paul wants to come to them and then on to Spain.

*Romans provides us a systematic look at our great salvation in Jesus Christ

* Although we each have unique circumstances in life, we all have a universal problem.

*The good news is that our great God has Himself accomplished the universal solution for us all!

Today, we'll see 3 parts of the universal state of man: the solution, the cause & the consequences

But first, let see how Paul opens his letter to the believers at Rome w/ “Jesus in every verse” (vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Vs 1 – Paul’s entire life is all centered on Jesus
 - a. He’s a servant...of Jesus
 - b. He’s called to be an apostle...of Jesus
 - c. He’s set to the task of the gospel...of Jesus
2. Vs 2 – This gospel good news that has been promised to come is that of the coming of the Messiah...Jesus
3. Now, who is this Messiah named Jesus?

Read Vs 3-4

1. Vs 3 – He’s God’s Son who became human into the family of King David
2. Vs 4 – He’s more than the son of human flesh, He’s the Son of God proved by the resurrection!

Read Vs 5

1. Jesus has given us all we need for this task.

Read Vs 6-7

1. So Paul is sure to tell them that they **ALSO** are called to be set apart to a special task for Jesus
2. Paul's blessing to them: Grace and Peace
 - a. Combining the Greek and Jewish blessings
 - b. Grace for blessings and free gifts
 - c. Peace for rest and satisfaction
3. So Paul's opening...it's all about Jesus
 - a. What Jesus is doing for Paul
 - b. And what Jesus is doing for them

1st we'll see the solution for this universal state, that is, faith in the powerful gospel (Vs 8-17)

Read Vs 8-9

1. We're all famous for something. These Christians were famous for their belief in Jesus
2. Paul was pleased to be praying for people that have such strong confidence in Christ's work.

Read Vs 10-13

1. Paul has been greatly desiring to come to them but has been held back so far, but why?
 - a. To share their mutual faith in words & actions
 - b. Paul wants to give to them & have them give to him mutual refreshment!
2. Notice there are many Gentiles in the church
 - a. This isn't just a Jewish thought and belief
 - b. How great is God that He has solved the universal problem of all mankind, regardless of your past, your culture or personal tendencies

Read Vs 14-15

1. It's w/ a grateful heart that Paul wants to 'preach the Gospel' to more Romans
2. "I have faith" isn't enough. Faith in what!?!

Read Vs 16-17

1. The power of the gospel is in believing it
2. As you believe the Gospel, you believe Jesus has cleansed & made you righteous before God

2nd we'll see the cause of this universal state, that is, nature has revealed God, but we've gone another way (Vs 18-23)

Read Vs 18-20

1. Creation itself tells us that there's a Creator
 - a. An eternal Creator (always has & will be)
 - b. A divine Creator (not from within creation)
2. It should be evident that anything we do against our eternal, divine Creator's will should gain His wrath against us
3. What is their crime? They hold(back) the truth
 - a. They know the truth, but don't reveal it.

Read Vs 21-23

1. Attributing God's good deeds & attributes to something else is the heart of idolatry.
 - a. This devalues God / overvalues all else.
 - b. Nearly all sin starts with pride & idolatry
2. Pride: We get to see the rules
3. Idolatry: Giving to another what belongs to God

3rd we'll see the consequences of this universal state, that is, we pervert all that God has created (Vs 24-32)

Read Vs 24-25

1. “God gave them up” – literally means to *allow them to betray* Him.
 - a. Same as God hardening Pharaoh’s heart.
 - b. God speeds up what man is already set on
2. What were they “given up” to?
 - a. Lusts of their hearts
 - b. Allowed themselves to be devoted to things other than God
3. God allows them to betray Him in changing the physical nature (animals, statues, heavenly bodies) into something twisted and perverted
 - a. They worshipped creation rather than God
 - b. This overvalues the created item and twists its intended purpose.
4. Nature is intended to show God’s glory (Psm 19)

Read Vs 26-27

1. God allows them to betray Him in changing the physical body into something twisted & perverted
 - a. Natural use of body wasn't good enough for them, so they twisted to homosexuality
2. What were they "given up" to?
 - a. Vile Affections = dishonorable feelings
 - b. Allowed their body to be run by feelings
3. Our bodies in marriage are intended to show the intimacy that God wants w/ each one of us

Read Vs 28-31

1. Vs 29 – Maliciousness = a desire to injure
2. Vs 29 – Debate = contention or strife
3. Vs 29 – Malignity = bad character
4. Vs 31 – w/o natural affection = w/o family love
5. Vs 31 – Implacable = not at peace w/ anyone

6. God allows them to betray Him in changing their mind into something twisted & perverted
 - a. Reprobate mind = a disqualified mind
 - b. When people abandon the true knowledge of God, they reflect that the wrath of God is abiding upon them.
7. Our minds are intended to be the gatekeeper to our spirit
 - a. Whatever our mind believes controls the spirit
 - b. Whatever our mind believes controls the body.

Read Vs 32

1. No longer ashamed of sin but it's open
2. Notice the acknowledgement that those doing such sins, know they are worthy of death
 - a. The heart of man has a conscience that will admit it's sinful and needs judged.
 - i. The mind often gets in the way though.
 - ii. To avoid the mind, go for the conscience, ask, 'have you always obeyed your conscience'?

Conclusion

- 1. There is a solution to the universal state of the human race**
 - a. It is faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - b. It's not faith in.....the abstract
 - c. The Gospel do no good unless you put your trust into it...like you would trust a parachute
- 2. What has caused our universal state of sin?**
 - a. Creation itself tells us there's an eternal, heavenly Creator, yet we ignore that truth.
 - b. In pride & idolatry, we create life the way we want it to be
- 3. There are consequences of living in this universal state of sin**
 - a. We pervert nature away from giving God glory to giving something else glory
 - b. We pervert our bodies away from picturing the intimacy God what w/ each of us into unsatisfying lust
 - c. We pervert our minds into a life of strife