

The Book of Romans 1:16–32

Main Idea: The gospel is powerful enough to save anyone, and God’s wrath is often seen when people are handed over to the path they insist on taking.

The Context: Romans is a letter, not isolated moments. Paul is building an argument across chapters 1, 2, and 3. This week is one part of a larger picture.

The 7 Point Flow of Romans 1–3

1. The gospel saves both Jew and Gentile.
2. Some Jews doubted Gentiles could truly be saved.
3. Paul anticipates that objection and agrees Gentile culture was deeply broken.
4. That brokenness was itself evidence of God’s wrath.
5. Which means the gospel is more powerful than they realized.
6. In chapter 2, Paul turns the mirror toward the Jews.
7. In chapter 3, we all need Jesus.

Three Main Truths

1. The Gospel Can Reach Anyone - No past is too dark. No culture is too broken. No sinner is too far gone.

Truth: Salvation is not based on where you have been, but on who Christ is.

Challenge: Do not disqualify yourself or someone else from the reach of God’s grace.

2. God’s Wrath Can Look Like Letting Us Go Our Own Way - Paul says God “gave them over.” Sometimes judgment is not lightning from heaven. Sometimes it is allowing people to chase what they demanded.

Truth: Sin often feels like freedom at first, but becomes bondage.

Challenge: Ask yourself where you are resisting God’s direction and calling it freedom.

3. Truth and Grace Must Stay Together - The church must not single out one sin while excusing others. But we also cannot erase what Scripture says. We stand with two feet in the gospel.

Truth: Jesus offers both forgiveness and transformation.

Challenge: Speak truth with humility. Love people without surrendering conviction.

Reflection Questions

- Where have I mistaken rebellion for freedom?
- Am I harsher on sins I do not struggle with?
- Do I believe the gospel can truly change anyone?
- Is my focus on behavior modification or bringing people to Jesus?