

## Romans – A Survey

### “The Gospel - Revealing The Righteousness of God”

#### I. Introductory Matters (1:1-17)

#### II. God’s Righteousness Revealed in Condemnation (Sin) (1:18-3:20)

- A. Condemnation against **pagan, immoral humanity (1:18-32)**. The first step in the revelation of the righteousness that God provides for people by faith **is to set forth their need for it** because they are under God’s judgment. The human race stands condemned before God **and is dead in trespass and sin (Eph 2:1)**

v.17 R+ of  
God revealed  
v.18 Wrath of  
God revealed

1. **Reasons for condemnation (1:18-23) WRATH !** In such NT passages as John 3:36; Ro. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6; Rev. 6:16; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15; cf. Rom. 9:22, wrath is specifically described as **God’s wrath, His wrath, thy wrath, or the wrath of the Lamb**. The wrath of God is being continually revealed from heaven, actively giving the wicked up to uncleanness, to vile passions, to reprobate (**abandoned in sin; lost to virtue or grace**) minds, and punishing them in the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God. The total biblical portrayal of the wrath of God is not so much an emotion or an angry frame of mind as it is **the settled opposition of holiness to evil**. Accordingly, the wrath of God is seen in its effects, in God’s punishment of sin in this life and in the next.” (Bakers Dict. of Theology) Divine displeasure or indignation against sin by God, who is opposed to all crime in all parts of the universe, and who determines to express it in the proper way for the sake of preserving order and promoting peace. (Barnes)

#### Wrath

1. In this life,
2. In The Tribulation,
3. In The Lake of Fire

Pestilence, death,  
destruction of  
cities, hardening of  
hearts, give them  
up! V. 24,26,28

- a. **For suppressing** (hold down, suppress, repress, stifle, hinder.) **God’s truth** (v. 18)

**Ungodliness** : “...against God.” “...probably intended here to express atheism, polytheism, and idolatry of every kind.” (Clark) “Fail to honor God, ... neglect of God...” (Barnes) Placing other priorities above God. (Resulting Wrath: The Flood, Sodom & Gomorrah)

**Unrighteousness: doing wicked, wrong, iniquity, doing unjust.**

“Unrighteousness, or iniquity towards men. All offences against our neighbour, our parents, our country, etc. The word ungodliness includes all crimes against God: this, all crimes against our fellow-men. The two words express that which comprehends the violation of all the commands of God: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, etc., and thy neighbour as thyself," (Barnes)

- b. **For ignoring God’s revelation** (v. 19-20)

“**Men are taught by nature and conscience.**” There is a great deal *about* God that men cannot know, but there is a great deal that men can know. Men can know enough to be led to God. This is the whole point of this passage: men know about God, but they do not worship Him as God. They have a sense of God, but they

v.17 R+ of God  
v.18 Un R+ of man

**suppress the sense**, trying to get rid of it. Man can see the "eternal power," of God. Man can look at the creation of the earth and outer space, of plants and animals, of man and woman; he can look and clearly see their...

- bodies and structure.
- variety and beauty.
- arrangement and order.
- purpose and laws.

However, they have sinned by suppressing this general revelation. But, they still have their **conscience**. And this conscience is troubling them. So, in the old days they created substitute gods – **ANIMISM** – stones, trees, animals became gods (idols). In today's age, people still are troubled by their conscience. So, they elevate **MAN (HUMANISM)** and go forth to do GOOD deeds. But, these deeds are done in the name of MAN, not in the name of the Lord. It is worthless in God's sight. (IS 64:6)

c. **For perverting God's glory** (v. 21-23) But men...

- **did not glorify Him:** did not worship, obey, or serve Him as God.
- **did not give thanks** to Him: did not praise, magnify, or express appreciation to Him.

What happens when men reject God is tragic. **Two severe things** happen when they push God out of their minds.

Men's **imagination**s become vain. The word "imagination" means thoughts, reasonings, deliberations, conclusions, speculations.

The word "**vain**" means, empty, futile, unsuccessful, senseless, worthless.

Man's "**foolish heart is darkened.**" The word "foolish" means senseless, without understanding, unintelligent.

The word "darkened" means blinded, unable to see.

**Rejection of: God**—the only living and true God—shows wrath because men become prideful and turn away from God. This scene is one of the greatest tragedies in all of human history, and it is repeated every time a man turns away from God. The scene is man rejecting God and claiming that he is...

- too wise to believe in God.
- too intelligent to depend upon the "fables" of the Bible.
- too capable not to look to self.
- too resourceful not to create his own world and future.
- too masterful not to trust his own humanistic ideas.
- too reasonable and rational not to create his own standards and laws to control life. (Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary)

2. **Results of condemnation** (v. 24-32)

a. **Abandoned to fornication** (v. 24-25) "**God gave them up.**" Man's sin led God to give man up and to abandon him. To be abandoned and left without God's influence of grace in this world leads to the worst possible life imaginable.

You must vote for the bill to find out what is in the bill !

Stephen Hawkins:  
Universe came from Nothing.  
Richard Dawkins:  
Evolution  
Kathrine Applegate:  
Bacterial Flagellum:  
Michael Behe' Irreducible complexity.  
"Nature works like MAGIC"

Gave them up, over v.24, 26, 28

Gal 6:7  
“Sowing &  
Reaping”

**Man chooses sin over God**, and when he does, two things happen.

**Man becomes enslaved to sin.** Sin actually stirs more and more sin. The more a man sins the easier it is for him to sin again. At first he may ponder the wisdom of committing the sin; but later on, after committing the sin over and over, he seldom if ever gives the sin a second thought. Sin looks good, and feels good. It is attractive and it satisfies the human flesh and urges of man. It satisfies so much that man is naturally attracted to it. By sinning, he steadily makes himself a slave to sin.

**Man becomes addicted.** Sin becomes the terrible master and subjects man to its cruel habits and enticements that are almost impossible to break. Sin always lies. This needs to be remembered. Sin entices, claiming to bring pleasure and stimulation and happiness, but in reality it destroys a person's body, values, mind, friends, life, hope profession, family, future, will, soul.

A terrible tragedy that is so often forgotten is this: we are not islands unto ourselves. **Our sin involves others.** Man abandons God, actually turns away from God and gives God up. Therefore, God gives man up, and lets man go his own way, leaving man to live for that which he has chosen.

Psalm 81:12 **So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust:** and they walked in **their own counsels.**

**b. Abandoned to sexual perversion (v. 26-27)**

God shows wrath by **giving men up** to vile, *unnatural* affections (homosexuality). The term "vile affections" (*pathē atimias*) means passions, dishonor, disgrace, infamy, shame, and degradation. It means passions that cannot be controlled or governed, that run loose and wild. They allow **unnatural passion to go out of control.**

**Men lust and lust**, craving the illegitimate and unlawful. They burn in their lust one for another.

**Women burn and lust** and exchange the "natural use into that which is *against nature.*"

The result of *unnatural* affection is a totally **depraved nature.** When men choose a life of "vile affections," God gives them up to it.

Note a crucial fact: Scripture says men receive "in themselves that recompence [pay back, punishment] of their error." The judgment for homosexuality is *within*, not *without* man. If a person burns after *unnatural* affection, he is given over to his burning; he is given over to burn and crave more and more. He is judged and condemned to live in his *unnatural* passion and to feel the shame of it. He is enslaved and held in bondage to it, psychologically and physically. And the judgment is "**meet, that is, fit, just**, exactly what it should be. If

men lust and burn after *unnatural* affection, it is only fit that they be given what they so passionately crave. Therefore, God judges men by giving men up **to live in their vile affections.**

"That every one of you **should know how to possess his vessel** in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God" (1 Thes. 4:4-5)

**c. Abandoned to depraved lifestyle (v. 28-32)**

God shows wrath by giving men up to reprobate, depraved minds. The term "reprobate mind" (adokimon) means a mind that is rejected, disapproved, degraded, depraved; a mind that cannot stand the test of judgment.

The reason God gives men up to reprobate minds is **because men reject God.** They know God, but they **do not "like to retain God in their knowledge."** They...do not like to honor God, recognize God, acknowledge God. They simply do not want God to have anything to do with their lives; therefore, they push Him out of their minds.

They ignore and refuse to accept God's presence. The result is forcibly stated. God gives men over to reprobate minds, minds that are totally depraved. Men are allowed to do exactly as they choose; they are enslaved more and more in their depravity and unsuitable behavior.

**d. Vice lists: Gal 5:19; I Tim 6:4; II Tim 3:2-5; Tit 3:3**

**Bibliography**

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck. The Bible Exposition Commentary, Warren Wiersbe; ROMANS, The Gospel of God's Grace, Alva McClain; Romans Verse By Verse, William Newell; Romans - Preachers Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary,