

Romans 1

DAY 1: Paul's credentials (1:1-7), concerns (1:8-15) and confidence (1:16-17)

Author: The apostle Paul, addressed to: Roman Christians (1:7)

Date: Winter of A.D. 56-57

Written: from Corinth, Greece. (3 month stay in Greece)

Theme: The righteousness of God; how unrighteous people are made righteous.

Key verse: *Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it's written, He who through faith is righteous shall live.*

Key word: Righteousness: (righteous, just, justify, justified)

Key question: How can a holy God ever forgive sinners?

*Romans 3:26 ...He did it to demonstrate his **justice** at the present time, so as to be **just** and the one who **justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.*

1. Underline Paul's credentials: (1:1-7)

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Underline Paul's concerns and things for which he cared. (1:8-15)

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

⁹ *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers,*

¹⁰ *asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.*

¹¹ *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you,*

¹² *that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

¹³ *I want you to know, brethren, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish:¹⁵ so I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

Paul's Confidence (1:16).

Rom. 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel... it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

3. The operation of the gospel: (1:16b): it is the _____ of God.

4. The outcome of the gospel (1:16c): _____

5. The outreach of the gospel (1:16d): to _____

DAY 2: The downward spiral of intelligence (1:18-20)

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth.

¹⁹ *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*

²⁰ *Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse;*

1. These verses have two themes about them.

2. Theme #1: Profound revelation.

a. What has God made known about Himself?

b. Is what can be known about God difficult to see or easy to see? What words does Paul use to describe the ease or difficulty it should be in seeing God?

c. If someone does not see God in nature, what is the source of the problem? Where does Paul specifically lay the blame?

3. Theme #2: Profound rejection.

a. What is mankind's response to the revelation of God?

b. What does it mean to "suppress" the truth?

4. If someone *wants* to see and understand who God is, should that be able to take place?

5. If it doesn't take place, what is the problem? Is it a knowledge problem or a heart problem?

DAY 3: The downward spiral of ignorance (1:21-23)

Romans 1:21 ..for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.

²² *Claiming to be wise, they became fools,*

²³ *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles.*

1. What wrong responses does mankind make when presented with the opportunity to know God?

2. Why do you think man responds so poorly?

3. A rebellious and willful attitude to not respond to God has a devastating effect on man's thinking. What consequences does Paul identify?

4. Man makes an "exchange," trading the knowledge and value of God for what?

5. What effect do you think this has on man?

6. What words would you pick to identify the attitudes behind man's willful refusal to respond to the God who reveals Himself?

7. What words would you use to describe your attitude toward God?

DAY 4: The downward spiral of indulgence (1:24-27)

Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

²⁵ *because they exchanged the truth about God for a 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 dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural,*

²⁷ *and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error.*

1. The downward spiral of *ignorance* is followed by the downward spiral of *indulgence*.

2. If people are **determined** to go their own way, will God let them? (1:24, 26)

3. Yesterday, we saw how man "suppresses" the truth about God. In addition, what is man's response to the truth of God? (1:25)

4. Man "exchanges" the truth about God "for a lie." What lies about God do you think people believe?

5. Man next "worships and serves the creature rather than the Creator"? To worship something means to exalt it to top priority or top value. We worship what we give our hearts "top billing." What examples come to your mind?

6. Paul gives two examples of the downward spiral of indulgence as evidenced in immorality. Sexual immorality, called "uncleanness" by Jesus is any sexual activity outside of marriage. What strikes you about this downward spiral?

7. What strikes you most from today's verses?

DAY 5: The downward spiral of impenitence (1:28-32)

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct.

²⁹ *They were filled with all manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, they are gossips,*

³⁰ *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

³¹ *foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*

³² *Though they know God's decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve those who practice them.*

1. Paul has given us three downward spirals: *ignorance, indulgence, and now impenitence.*

2. Impenitence is more than not repenting. It is the stubborn refusal not to repent.

3. Paul starts today's verses with another sad response of man to the revelation of God. What is it? (1:28)

4. Like we saw earlier God won't force man to respond to God. God lets them go their own way. What consequences follow man's determined commitment to live independently of God? (1:28).

5. "Improper conduct" (1:28) comes in all shapes and sizes. Paul also calls these things "all manner of wickedness" (1:29).

6. **Circle** the items in 1:29-31 that you see or hear the most about in daily life.

7. **Underline** the items in 1:29-31 that you deal with the most.

8. As if all of these consequences of man's "independence" and search for "freedom" is not foolish, arrogant, and blind enough, it actually gets worse! Re-read 1:32.

9. Next to each of the three items in 1:32, jot down your own thoughts about each:

a. We "know" we deserve punishment for these things--

b. We still go on and do them--

c. We approve those who do these things! --