

## Romans 1: 16-32

Read verses 1-6 to establish context

The ancient philosopher Seneca called Rome “a cesspool of iniquity” and the ancient writer Juvenal called it a “filthy sewer into which the dregs of the empire flow”

v.16 not ashamed of the gospel- Too much of the church today is ashamed of the simple gospel

-is where the **power** is, not in demonstrations of signs and wonders, not in miracles but in this beautiful gospel that sets men free.

- it is the power to be delivered from the kingdom of darkness and eternal damnation

- it is the power to be delivered from the sin that you are going to be convicted of during the study today

- it is the power to be saved not just from but to something

v.17 God's own righteousness is revealed and available to us

- faith to faith- faith is a progressive thing, it builds in our life

v.17 The just shall live by faith- eternal life by faith in Jesus

- see Habakkuk 1-2- As the prophet asked why things are amiss, God reveals that all are deserving of judgement and it is only His grace that saves attained through faith

v.18 truth is suppressed, which means that all have it to suppress

God's wrath- very personal emotional wrath

The greatest peril facing the human race- the wrath of God. We sometimes object to the idea of God's wrath because we equate it with human anger, which is motivated by selfish personal reasons or by a desire for revenge. We must not forget the the wrath of God is completely righteous in character.

Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's very being against that which is contrary to holiness. In verse 16 Paul speaks of salvation but what are we saved from? First and foremost we are saved from the wrath of God that we deserve. Unless there is something to be saved from, there is no point talking about salvation

**Hebrews 10:30-31** *For we know Him Who said, “Vengeance is Mine, says the Lord, and again, “the Lord will judge His people” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

In this portion of the letter (1:18-3:20), Paul's goal is not to proclaim the good news, but to demonstrate the absolute necessity of the good news of salvation from God's wrath.

v.19 made manifest or real, they know in their hearts  
- example of witnessing to an atheist

v.21-22 people have to make an effort not to believe, belief comes natural if we yield to it

v.23 brings God down to man's standards-

V. 25 THE LIE from the garden, we are gods

v.27-28 homosexuality definitely condemned

v.29-31 some sins mentioned here are what we would consider minor but the Lord sees all sin the same

California governor inauguration speech- we will do all this for children, immigrant children etc, BUT we will defend a woman's right to choose. California aborts over 150,000 babies a year

v.32 same guilt if we approve of their sin, or if we take no stand against it

## **chapter 2**

v.1 without excuse, all know the truth- Keep in mind this passage does not deal with salvation but judgment, it tells us the basis we are judged on not how to get saved, that will come later

v.2 God's judgment is just and fair

- according to truth, you can get experts to testify that you are not responsible because of your unfair treatment, because the DNA was collected wrong, because of your childhood

- same things- not exact same acts but same in nature, against God's revelation

v.3 sometimes men think because judgment is not quick that God is not going to judge.

*Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,*

*7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*

*2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

v.4 do we despise ( not esteem) His goodness and longsuffering by not repenting ?

- It is His goodness which causes repentance, that is what we need to show people not condemnation, they already know that

- forbearance- temporary truce that might change depending on circumstance