

"What in the World is Wrong?"

Part 1

Romans 1:16-32

**Introduction:** For a couple weeks we are going to step away from Zechariah and look at a couple of messages from Romans 1. I wanted to do this to help us to see why things are the way they are today. We have children identifying as cats and other animals and then we have adults permitting this to happen. We have young people identifying as the opposite sex and we have national leaders defending them. There are boys on girls sports teams and men using the women's rest rooms. We have a major push to do away with fossil fuels and convert everything to electric while the power grid cannot handle the current load.

We are living in a day when good is evil and evil is good. So what in the world is happening and what can we expect as time moves on? Romans 1 will answer these questions very clearly for us. But before we get to what is happening there is a foundation that needs to be put in place in our minds.

I. Man's Need

**Notice Romans 1:16**

Paul was clear that he was not ashamed of the Gospel because it was the power of God unto salvation. Man needs to believe the Gospel it so that God's power will bring about the new birth. Without the Gospel we are dead in our sins.

**Romans 3:10-18, 23**

<sup>10</sup> *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

<sup>11</sup> *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

<sup>12</sup> *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

<sup>13</sup> *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

<sup>14</sup> *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

<sup>15</sup> *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

<sup>16</sup> *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

*<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known:*

*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

*<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Because of sin man is sentenced to eternal separation from God.

**Romans 6:23a**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;*

Man needs to be forgiven of his sin or he will be forever separated from God in the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Notice Romans 1:16 again.**

Here at the end of this verse we see that salvation was offered to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles. Why do I need to know this?

This is pointing back to the birth of the church. Let us notice a few verses. Let us notice the words of Peter as he preached at Pentecost.

**Acts 2:22-24, 37-38**

*<sup>22</sup> Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

<sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

<sup>24</sup> Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The first offer of the Gospel went to the Jews, and they were the very Jews who crucified Jesus. So when Paul tells us in Romans it is to the JEWS first, he is letting all of us know that if God offers salvation to the very people who crucified His Son then there is not one person here who is beyond forgiveness. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to anyone who will believe.

#### **Acts 16:25-31**

<sup>25</sup> And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

<sup>26</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

<sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

<sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

<sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

<sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

<sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

#### **Notice Romans 1:17**

Here we see that the righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel. I want to consider this in two ways.

**1. Imputed righteousness.**

When we believe the Gospel which is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day, it is then that we are given the righteousness of God.

**Romans 3:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

When we believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are then given the righteousness of God. This is man's greatest need. Our own righteousness is worthless.

**Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

When we are given God's righteousness, we are justified which means we are declared righteous.

**Notice Romans 1:17 again.**

The second way I want to consider the righteousness of God as revealed in the Gospel is:

**2. In the death of Jesus Christ.**

God is holy and He is righteous and for these reasons He cannot ignore sin. If anyone would think that somehow God is going to one day accept everyone regardless if they have received Jesus Christ as Saviour they need to just look to the cross.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Why would God put His Son through this if sin did not need to be paid for? His perfect righteousness is revealed in the Gospel which tells us His Son died for the sins of the world.

### 1 John 2:1-2

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

## II. God's Wrath

### Notice Romans 1:18

The word "FOR" connects this verse to the previous verse. If we do not have the righteousness of God then we are under the wrath of God. This verse tells us that God's wrath IS BEING revealed on all the unrighteous today.

### John 3:36

<sup>36</sup> *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

Paul will go on in Romans to make it very clear just how sinful man is and why he needs the righteousness of God. He will present the Doctrine of Condemnation before he presents the Doctrine of Justification. He does this because man MUST know he is under the wrath of God. I came across the words in a Gospel Tract that I want you to listen to.

Very often today the gospel is presented on the basis of personal benefit.

*'You want fun, freedom, and life, don't you? Good! You're just the person I want to talk with. I feel just as you do. You ask, "How can you feel like me? I thought you were a Christian." I am. But still I have basic human desires, such as satisfaction, happiness, freedom, and a score more. And I find all these fulfilled in my best friend, Jesus Christ.*

*From experience, I know it pays to be a Christian right here and now. Even if there were no heaven or hell (which there is), I would still be a Christian today. Why? Because I know that the Christian life is the best. It's the only life worth living."*

Now listen to how George Zeller critiques this:

*"Now we must admit that these things are true. Satisfaction, happiness, freedom and many other benefits are all found in Christ Jesus and the Christian life is certainly the only life worth living. But should we present the gospel on this basis? Was this Paul's approach? There are many, many unsaved people who think that they are very happy. They are relatively satisfied with life; things are going well for them and they enjoy what they are doing. They are satisfied with their lifestyle and they do not see any compelling reason why they should become a Christian. "Christianity is fine for you if it makes you happy," they say, "but I'm comfortable and quite happy with the way I am now living." They do not see their NEED for Christ."*

People must be told they are sinners under the wrath of God.

**Notice Romans 1:18 again.**

"Hold the Truth in unrighteousness" means "to suppress the Truth." This is exactly what all unsaved people are doing now. What is the Truth that is being suppressed?

**Notice Romans 1:19-20**

God has revealed Himself to every person in the world. God really wrote 2 books.

- A. A picture book of creation.
- B. The Bible

Every person is without excuse. You cannot say that you never knew there was a Creator. Nobody can say that. If you are not saved then you are suppressing the Truth and you are under the wrath of God.

**Conclusion:**

We will continue this next week. But for today let me ask you, What are you doing with the Truth you have been given?"