

# **The Righteousness of God**

**A Study of Romans**

**MISSION 119**

# KEY PASSAGE

- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:17** For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**
- The "gospel" (good news, euangelion) IS
  - The power of God (not our ability)
  - For salvation (Greek noun 'soteria' the verb "to save, rescue or deliver" is sozō) — raising the question "from what?"
  - To everyone who believes (Greek verb pisteuō, means to believe sometimes with the idea of confidence or trust; the noun form is pistis usually translated "faith"; SO BELIEVING AND HAVING FAITH ARE THE SAME) — believes what?
- The "gospel" reveals God's righteousness BOTH in how He deals with sin and in our lives

# PRESENT AND FUTURE WRATH

- Romans 1:18-32 focuses on HOW and WHY God's wrath is presently being revealed from heaven "against all ungodliness and unrighteousness"
- God responds to people's volitional decisions
- WHY: "suppress the truth" (18), "did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude" (21), "thinking became nonsense" (21), "foolish heart was darkened" (21), "became fools" (22), exchanged creator for the creation (23)
  - THEN God abandoned them to the lusts of their own hearts —> fornication (24)
- WHY: exchanged "the truth of God for a lie" (25), idolatry (25)
  - THEN God further abandoned them to their affections —> more sexual sin (26-27)

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- God responds to people's volitional decisions
- WHY: "did not like to retain God in their knowledge"
  - THEN God abandoned them further to their reprobate or corrupt "mind"
- WHY: further sinful conduct (29-32)
- Paul is demonstrating what he will conclude in Romans 3:9, that everyone is "under sin" and therefore, apart from the mercy of God, will endure God's wrath
- We need to be saved from God's wrath

# WORLDVIEWS

- Romans 1 is foundational to developing a Christian / Biblical worldview
- That humanity is “under sin” refers to the whole person
  - Paul never says “spiritually dead”
  - We see “under sin” affecting both the INNER MAN (heart, mind, thinking) and the OUTER MAN (speech, conduct)
  - Prevailing worldview today is that the “real me” is what I think and feel but not my physical body; the real me is the inner man not the outer, BUT biblically God made us whole (unified) persons with body and spirit
- We see and hear crazy stuff from the world and should expect it given what Paul says in Romans 1 (no surprises)
- But what is the answer for this — we need to be saved from wrath