

# **The Righteousness of God**

**A Study of Romans**

# 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)

# 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: "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

# **The Righteousness of God**

**A Study of Romans – Sanctification**

# STRUCTURE matters

- 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.**
- Apart from Christ We Are Under Sin (1:1-3:20)
- Justification By Faith Not Works (3:21-4:25)
  - Justification is deliverance from sin's penalty
  - Justification is God's declaring / ruling that we are righteous and so there are no charges against us for which we are the targets of God's wrath (recall, wrath is poured out on all godlessness and unrighteousness [Rom 1:18])
  - This justification is what I call "by faith righteousness"



# STRUCTURE matters

- The unit on justification (3:21-4:25) ends with this verse (4:25):
  - Romans 3:24: <sup>24</sup>they are **justified** freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (the verb δικαιόω or dikaiōō, to vindicate or treat as just, declare righteous)
  - Romans 4:25a: “He was delivered up for our trespasses” (this is justification, which is what 3:21-4:25 was all about)
  - Romans 4:25b: “And raised for our justification.” (the noun δικαίωσις or dikaiōsis can refer to the process or the result, and so can be understood as ‘justifying’)
  - Where 3:24 is about “by faith righteousness” made available by Jesus’ death, that delivers us from the penalty of sin, 4:25b introduces the sanctification process, that delivers from the power of sin, as we manifest God’s righteousness



# STRUCTURE matters

- Delivered from Wrath (5:1-11)
  - Key Verse 5:10: For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
- Deliverance to Righteousness (5:12-21)
  - Key Verse 5:17: If by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

# STRUCTURE matters

- Baptized Into Christ (6:1-14)
  - The idea is that we are baptized (immersed completely) in Jesus, and thus identified with his death and resurrection
  - We died to sin (sin nature) and are raised to live to God
  - Key Verse 6:11: So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
  - Section ends by saying we are not under Law but under grace
- Experiencing Freedom (6:15-23)
  - We are slaves to the one we serve (sin nature or righteousness); no license to sin
  - Key Verse 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# STRUCTURE matters

- Chapter 7 continues Paul's argument that we are not under Law but under grace
- Marriage illustration from the Law (7:1-6)
  - Death of the husband frees the wife from the law against adultery and she can remarry
  - Our death (remember we are baptized in Christ) frees us from the Law to serve in newness of the Spirit
- Purpose of the Law (7:7-12)
  - Law is not designed to make us righteous but make sin (sin nature) apparent to us
- Not Possible to Live Under the Law (7:13-25)
  - Sanctification by rules keeping brings experience of death.



# STRUCTURE matters

- Paul's statement in chapter 6 that we are not under Law but under grace, and his argument throughout 7 is to disavow us of the all too common belief that we are capable of exhibiting the righteousness of God by keeping the rules
- The problem is that our flesh is still with us, and on the basis of our own resources we CANNOT EXPERIENCE LIFE
- Trying the rules-keeping route leads only to DESPAIR
- This is where people struggling with addictions usually get bogged down
- HRM and other legalistic groups say things like "I am going to keep the Law because that pleases Jesus" but (1) Romans 7 says they are not capable of being Torah observant and (2) Romans 8 says walking according to the Spirit is what pleases God — don't get sucked into legalism
- Key Verse: Romans 8:3-4: For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.