

Sample Summary | Romans 1:18–32

Context: Paul begins explaining why it is necessary that God's righteousness is revealed "from faith for faith" (1:16), and he starts with the universality of God's righteous wrath against all unrighteous humanity.

STRUCTURE

1. **Reality of God's Judgment against Human Unrighteousness:** From heaven, God's reveals his righteousness in wrath against all human unrighteousness (1:18a).
2. **Reason for God's Judgment against Human Unrighteousness:** Every human being is without excuse (1:18b–23).
 - a. *Suppressing the Creator's Truth:* Human beings suppress the truth that is made known to them in creation (1:18b–20).
 - b. *Exchanging the Creator's Glory:* Human beings exchanged the glory of God, whom they knew, for images of his creation (1:21–23).
3. **Present Revelation of God's Judgment against Human Unrighteousness:** God gave up unrighteous human beings to their unrighteousness (1:24–32).
 - a. *Defiled Heart and Body:* God gave up unrighteous human beings to the lusts of their heart and the dishonoring of their bodies (1:24–25).
 - b. *Dishonorable Sexual Relations:* God gave up unrighteous human beings to dishonorable sexual passions and perversions (1:26–27).
 - c. *Debased Mind:* God gave up unrighteous human beings to a debased mind such that they not only practice death-deserving unrighteousness but approve of those who do (1:28–32).

UNIFYING THEME

God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of human beings, who are without excuse and thus without hope ... *apart from believing the gospel and thereby receiving the righteousness of God (1:7; 3:21–22).*

AUTHOR'S AIM

Paul aims to begin demonstrating the universal need for salvation by faith that the gospel provides so that his readers will understand their own need and the need of every human being everywhere to hear and respond to the gospel.

Teaching Outline:

1. (v. 18a) In and of yourself, you have **no escape** from the **REALITY** of God's judgment against your unrighteousness.
 - a. God's judgment is a consuming fire. *For the wrath of God ...*
 - b. God's judgment is already in effect. ... *is being revealed ...*
 - c. God's judgment carries ultimate authority. ... *from heaven ...*
 - d. God's judgment is universal. ... *against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of human beings.*
2. (vv. 18b–23) You have **no excuse** for the **REASON** for God's judgment against your unrighteousness.
 - a. Your unrighteousness is largely **willful** (v. 18b–20).
 - b. Your unrighteousness is **personal** (v. 21).
 - c. Your unrighteousness is **treason** (vv. 22–23).
3. (vv. 24–32) There is **no element** outside of Christ, in or around you, **exempt** from the **REVELATION** of God's judgment against your unrighteousness.
 - a. God's wrath is being revealed by his giving up the unrighteous to their unrighteousness in **defiled hearts and dishonored and dishonoring bodies**, including through dishonorable sexual relations (1:24–27).
 - b. God's wrath is being revealed by his giving up the unrighteous to their unrighteousness in **debased minds** (1:28–32).
4. (1:16–17; 3:21–26) There is **an exchange** that ensures **REDEMPTION** from God's judgment against your unrighteousness.