

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
What Has God Revealed?
Romans 1:16-31

Last time...we began the Epistle to the Romans, a doctrinal masterpiece
The “loaded” salutation and Paul’s introductory remarks

This time...what God has revealed to fallen mankind in desperate need of redemption
We continue in Rom 1

- v16 Paul is ready/eager to preach the Gospel (v15) because he is not ashamed of it!
- Matt 10:32-33 **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**
- Luke 9:26 **For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.**
- 2 Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Paul KNOWS (personally, experientially) that the Gospel of God/Christ (v1, 16) is the power of God unto salvation

- from eternal death
- from His holy wrath
- Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (boldly declared to the Jews)

The Law of Moses is a revelation of God’s holiness but it is NOT the power of God unto salvation
Remember the Epistle to the Galatians?

The power of God unto salvation is His grace, a gift
Eph 2:8-9

Example: last Sunday morning at Bosa Donuts
Dad, daughter, donuts, and death
Who is holding onto who?!

So who needs this gift of God and to whom is this gift offered?

The gift is offered to

- fallen, dead-in-sin Man-kind
- the Jew first and then the Gentile

Therefore the need is universal...EVERY person
and the gift is offered to...EVERY person

But who is saved from eternal death and the wrath of God?

Those who receive the gift, those who believe the Gospel of Christ

John 1:10-12 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own **received** him not. But as many as **received** him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that **believe** on his name:

v17 In the Gospel of Christ, God has revealed His righteousness to fallen man-kind

And His righteousness is revealed by...faith

From faith to faith

From God to man

From the faith of Christ

Gal 2:16a Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith **of** Jesus Christ (*TR*)

Phil 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith **of** Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith
(Gen 15:6 for us too)

Heb 12:2a Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of ~~our~~ faith
(*our* was inserted, God did not say it)

To the faith of an individual

Rom 12:3b think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Rom 10:17

John 1:1, 14

Gal 2:16b even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

As God revealed in His written Word – The just/innocent/holy shall live (eternal) by faith

The Apostle Paul's "trilogy" of this foundational truth of God (Hab 2:4)

Rom 1:17

Gal 3:11

Heb 10:38

God has revealed His righteousness = the Gospel of Christ
= righteousness by faith (of Christ to man)
= God doing right for “wrong natured man”

A gift wherein lies Life eternal

What if His gift is not received?

v18-19 If a person does not receive God’s gift of righteousness, they will stand before God in their unrighteousness

Revealed by God to the

- un-faith-ful (improperly placed measure of faith given them by God),
- un-believer/receiver

is His wrath, sore displeasure, indignation, vengeance

When “Enough is enough!” and the King of the universe stands up from His Throne in heaven, He will judge righteously

- all...He does not compromise with sin (wrongs/offenses against Him)
- ungodliness...wickedness
- unrighteousness...iniquity, wrong-being and wrong-doing
- persons...who
 - hold the truth...
 - John 14:6
 - the Gospel of Christ
 - His revealed righteousness
 - in unrighteousness...
 - corrupting the Word of God
 - another gospel (Gal 1:6-9)
 - an alternative “Acts 4:12”
 - have been given a revelation of God...every person knows God is
 - which is apparent because
 - it is in them
 - conscience, the awareness of God, God’s moral “hard-wiring”
 - DNA, a code that requires a supremely intelligent Coder
 - God had made it apparent to them
 - Creation (ala Ps 19:1)

Those who reject God’s gift of righteousness will be rejected by God

Those who despise the revelation of God given to them will be despised by God

v20 God is and God is apparent to every person
Every person has a revelation of his/her Maker...and is accountable to the Maker for it
What does the Maker expect of every person for the revelation of Himself given?
Faith

The invisible things of God from the creation of the world/*cosmos*/universe are clearly seen

Gravity

We cannot see it, but we can see the evidence of it
Scientists can observe and measure it
Scientists know *how* it works and have designed machines to use it and to counter it
But they do not know *why*, they cannot explain the basic force of nature called gravity...and they know Someone knows *why*

Magnetism

We cannot see it, but we can see the evidence of it
Scientists can observe and measure it
Scientists know *how* it works and have designed machines to use it
But they do not know *why*, they cannot explain the basic force of nature called magnetism...and they know Someone knows *why*

Flight

Scientists do not understand the basic mechanism of nature that enables flight...and they know Someone knows *why*
They develop engineering models (mathematics) that make flight possible but those same engineering models declare that a bumblebee cannot fly...yet they do! (Just ask Jerry Seinfeld)

Regarding the basic forces of nature, we have knowledge of “how” but not “why”
“how” – the evidence of truth
“why” – the source of truth

In the pursuit of “how” (the evidence of truth), science has the tools of

- observation...”clearly seen”
- mathematics...the language of creation of the physical universe

The pursuit of “why” (the source of truth) is the realm of...faith
Heb 11:6 without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And this revelation of God is understood/observed/comprehended by

- those made by the Maker
- creatures of the Creator to whom this doctrine is being given...mankind

This revelation comes with evidence of the Creator's

- eternal power
- Godhead...Divinity, "non-man-ness", "non-created-ness"

so no one has an excuse to not believe His revelation to them

When standing before one's Maker, "I didn't know" is indefensible!

So the unrighteousness of man is not a function of not knowing but a function of not believing

v21-23 So even though they knew God is, the unrighteous

- did not glorify/honor/worship God for Who He is, the Almighty Creator God
- were not thankful/grateful for His blessings
 - Acts 17:25b He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things
 - Matt 5:45b He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust
- became vain/wicked/foolish in their imaginations/reasoning/thinking
 - Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ
 - alternative explanations for "why"
 - "declaration of independence" from their Maker
- and their foolish heart was darkened, blinded by darkness/unbelief

In their darkened, unbelieving heart, they self-asserted great wisdom!

But God sees and knows the truth – they, created in His image, became simpletons – by making gods in

- their (fallen, corrupt) image
 - Humanism is an alternate "why" where man is god
- the (cursed) image of God's creatures

v24-25 Therefore, God "gave them up"...yielded, surrendered

God gave the unrighteous what they wanted

The Righteousness of God and Eternal Life are not a forced march,
but a gift to be received or rejected

The unrighteous want the lusts of their heart...uncleanness from God's perspective

Grace is given for the obedience of the faith (of Christ) for His name...v5

Obedient children do not live according to the former lusts...1 Peter 1:14

The unrighteous want to dishonor/treat shamefully their bodies among themselves

The unrighteous want to change/exchange the truth of God...the Word of God...
for a lie

“Has God said...” (Gen 3:1 by the deceiver)

2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
(they think in their foolish minds that we believe in “fairy tales”!)

The unrighteous want to worship the creature rather than the Creator

- themselves
- animals...spiritism of Native Americans, Hindu Indians
- “mother earth”...Climate Change

God gives them what they want...but their unbelief does not in the very least change

- Who He is – their Creator
- Who gets the last word!

v26-27 “Dishonoring their bodies”: homosexuality

So God gave them up...yielded, surrendered, gave them what they wanted –
vile (God’s perspective, not theirs!) affections

Women/females changed/exchanged the natural use (of their bodies)...
natural: the instinctive...God-designed and God-“hard wired”
use: sexual intercourse with males to be fruitful and multiply, God’s design

The change/exchange is against nature, of all kinds!

This “leaving the natural use” cannot be found in other “kinds” created by God
Same genders do not, cannot, be fruitful and multiply
Without reproduction come extinction

Men/males left, forsaking, the natural use (of their bodies)...

natural: the instinctive...God-designed and God-“hard wired”

use: sexual intercourse with females to be fruitful and multiply, God’s design

burning/enflamed in lust for other men/males

doing what is unseemly/indecent...in God’s eyes but not their own

and receiving/taking/opting for the corresponding recompense/pay back of their error,
which was meet/necessary...by the holy and just Creator God

v28 Since they did not want to retain God in their knowledge base,
God gave them up...yielded, surrendered, gave them what they wanted...
to a reprobate/worthless mind, the kind of mind that does these things that are
not convenient/unbecoming of man created in the image of the holy
Creator God

God gives up!
Does that startle you?

God, Who desires all people to be saved (1 Tim 2:4) and takes no pleasure in the
death of the wicked (Ezk 18:32), gives up!

God gives up people to the uncleanness they want instead of Him (v24)
God gives up people to the vile affections they want instead of Him (v26)
God gives up a reprobate mind to those who want it instead of the mind of Christ

God gives up on people before they take their last breath!
Pharaoh in Exodus – hardened his heart
During the DoL – a strong delusion that they should believe a lie and be
damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in
unrighteousness (2 Thes 2:10-12)

In these Days of Noah and Days of Lot before the return of Jesus Christ our Lord and
King, we see reprobate minds all around us!

LGBTQ-favorable policies and God-defying agenda permeate our society

In our families...it became “cool” to be homosexual or bi- or trans-

In our Gov'ts

The Governor of Florida this week signed into legislation a “parental
rights bill” that prohibits public school teachers from providing
instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity
(God has already identified the gender of every person!!!)
in K-3 classrooms (!!!)

And celebrities and major corporations like The Walt Disney
Company have responded with outrage
They want K-3rd graders to be taught all this sexual filth and to
decide for themselves what gender they are!
A Florida teacher is upset that he cannot share his homosexual
experiences with kindergartners!!!

The Biden Administration this week endorsed transgender youth
sex operations and hormone therapy for minors

In our Justice system

One of the “brightest legal minds”, being nominated for the open seat on the Supreme Court, cannot define the term “woman”
A 3 year old knows! (But a future kindergartner might not...)

In our intercollegiate sports

Men swimming in women’s races because they have so chosen that gender identity...and obviously dominating
So much for Women’s equality!
Inclusiveness triumphs over fairness

In our media

For all you Fox News lovers, a high-profile transgender (Bruce Jenner) is now a Fox News contributor
So much for the bastion of the conservative view in American media

In the Church

Homosexual priests/pastors in liberal denominations

Human Rights Campaign: “At the heart of the claim that the Bible is clear "that homosexuality is forbidden by God" is poor biblical scholarship and a cultural bias read into the Bible.”

The Inclusive Bible

The Queen James Bible

Romans 1:27 QJV: Men with men working that which is pagan and unseemly. For this cause God gave the idolators up unto vile affections, receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Probe Ministries: “The editors, citing Paul’s familiarity with the holiness code in Leviticus, decided that “Leviticus, as we know, is intended to condemn ritual impurities associated with pagan idol worship.” So the editors pass the Romans passage—that condemns all same-sex intercourse—through the lens of pagan ritual and idolatry only. They ignore Paul’s use of the word “natural,” which is important because the apostle supports God’s design for male-female pairings in creation.”

Man interpreting Scripture, not rightly dividing the Word of Truth

v29-31 Days of Noah and Days of Lot...

Being filled with

- all unrighteousness...nothing is off-limits, no restraints, no boundaries
- fornication...every form of sexual sin
- wickedness...depravity
- covetousness...lust for the things of the world
- maliciousness...just plain old badness

Full of

- envy...self-centered and self-serving jealousy and ill-will for others
- murder...hatred and the taking of another life
(Chicago every weekend, NYC guys walking together this week...)
- debate...arguing, quarreling, striving
- deceit
- malignity...mischievousness

whisperers...cannot keep a secret/a confidence, gossipers

backbiters...friendly to your face but slander behind your back

haters of God

despiteful...insulting (particularly to lovers of God)

proud

boasters

inventors of evil things...looking for ways and means to become even more vile to God

disobedient to parents...disorderly, rebel against authority

without understanding...foolish, no common sense

covenantbreakers...their word is no good

without natural affection...hard hearted, even toward family

implacable...no making peace with

unmerciful...no compassion, no kindness, therefore no mercy will be given them

v32 The reprobate in mind (v21-31) know (buried down deep, but it is there)

- God is
- the judgment of God is coming

yet they are determined to not believe, to not submit!!!

e.g. Rev 9:1-12 5th trumpet judgment – “locusts” and no death

Rev 9:13-21 6th trumpet – 4 demons in Euphrates, 1/3 of people are slain

v20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: either repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

btw...not only those who “join in the fun” of v21-31,
but also those “cheering on the sidelines”
ex. heterosexuals supporting the LGBTQ “rights” agenda,
compromising with sin that is an affront to the Creator
who are guilty by wicked association vs holy, separate

Application/Exhortation

What has God revealed?

- Himself
- His righteousness
- the unrighteousness of mankind

Can we see what God has revealed?

Required: Faith

What has God not revealed...yet?

- His wrath

John 3:36 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.

What is the antidote to God’s wrath?

God’s righteousness, which is by faith

There is still time for loved ones and friends that are unrighteous

If you are unrighteous before the holy Creator God, there is still time to confess and
repent of your sin and to call upon the name of the Lord; do it now!

The role of the righteous:

Rom 10:13-15 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be
saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not
believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have
not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how
shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How
beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and
bring glad tidings of good things!