

The one true God knows everything about everything, because he created everything. With that in mind, the highest thought God ever had, was to freely give salvation and eternal life in paradise, to his enemies, by awakening them to life, calling them to himself, causing them to realize the wretches they are and the penalty they deserve, causing them to be devastated by their sin and to sorrowfully and sincerely repent, causing the Holy Spirit to enter their souls, causing them to live a completely different way, with regard and love for God, causing them to live for and obey Christ, and having his one and only son Jesus, fully God and fully man, to endure the full wrath of God in order to pay the price for all the sins committed by the sinners he saves!

## **Romans 1:18-32**

### **God's Wrath Against Mankind**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, and haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

## **Romans 2:1-5**

### **God's Righteous Judgment**

<sup>2</sup> Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. <sup>2</sup> We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup> Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to

repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

## **God's Judgment and the Law – 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

## **Romans 3:10-26**

### **No One Is Righteous**

<sup>10</sup> as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

<sup>13</sup> “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.”

<sup>14</sup> “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” <sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

<sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known.”

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

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

### ***The Righteousness of God Through Faith***

<sup>21</sup> *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—* <sup>22</sup> *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **AMEN AND PRAISE GOD!!!***

Of course, this is folly to the unconverted, but is the breath of life to the sinner who has been awakened from death, who has been given eyes to see and ears to hear! The wonderful words of life! Anyone who has seen himself as he really is, and realizes the grace that's been poured on his despicable head throughout his detestable life, these are the most beautiful words he will ever hear!

If you are saved by the grace of God, and fully understand your plight without faith in Jesus. If, by special grace you know how bad you were, and that without common grace there is no evil in which you would not delight, fervently praise and thank God with all your heart!

Pray for your family and friends who are dead in sin that they might also be brought to life by the atoning blood of Christ Jesus.

My Lord and Father, who is greater and more wonderful than any thought I can have. How can I ever thank you for calling me to you? You made me completely understand the depravity of my mind and the consequences of my sin, but at the same time you provided the cure through the blood of Jesus Christ. When I ponder this, my mind can scarcely comprehend it. I deserved the punishment that Christ endured for me.

I pray that you will make this the most important reality in my life. I pray that you will allow me to love you with my whole mind and heart, to love my neighbor and to love and obey Jesus' commands. Though the flesh

prevents me from perfect obedience, I pray for your power and mind to rule my thoughts and actions. I also pray that you will teach and encourage me to boldly share the story of how you saved me, that you might call others to saving faith through it.

I pray for my family and friends who are yet in darkness, many of whom are good people, but have not come to the realization of their desperate need to be born again through faith in Jesus. I pray that you will open their eyes, stir their hearts and prepare them for a soul-saving encounter with Jesus. Lead them to repentance, forgive their sins, and lead them in the way everlasting, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Make me always praise you and thank you for the undeserved riches you have given me in Christ. I pray all this in the name of Jesus, the good shepherd, who gave his life for his sheep. Amen.

[If you think you may not have been born again. If you have not seen the vileness of your sin, and see plainly that Jesus is your only hope. Pray a prayer like this.](#)

Father, I know I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey you, and to do your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.