

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/1-2/2022 *Romans Chapter 1***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Introduction to Romans:** Romans, Paul's greatest work, is placed first among his thirteen epistles in the New Testament. While the four Gospels present the words and works of Jesus Christ, Romans explores the significance of His sacrificial death. Using a question-and-answer format, Paul records the most systematic presentation of doctrine in the Bible. Romans is more than a book of theology. It is also a book of practical exhortation. The good news of Jesus Christ is more than facts to be believed. It is also a life to be lived. A life of righteousness befitting the person, "*justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!*"

**Theme of the Book of Romans: "Righteousness by Faith" – 1:16-17**

***Romans Chapter 1 – Greetings – Paul, Called to be an Apostle – vs. 1-7a; Paul Speaks of Himself and His Relationship to These Christians at Rome – vs. 7b-15; Announcement of the Great Theme of the Epistle – vs. 16-17; Condemnation – Without excuse – vs. 18-23***

**Key Verses:**

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

**Rom 1:17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "**THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**"

**AND CAN IT BE?** - A Christian hymn written by Charles Wesley in 1738 to celebrate his conversion. The hymn celebrates personal salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. (2:23 min)

*And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me*

### Greeting

**Rom 1:1** Paul, a bondservant (*doulos*) of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God -

- **Paul, a servant (a bondservant or bondslave) of Jesus Christ.** Paul wrote his letter to the Romans while he was in Corinth at about 57-59 AD. It was his third visit to Corinth. In his opening, he will express to them the desire that he has had, to come to Rome. A long-standing desire, but up until this present, the time that he wrote, he was hindered from going.
- **At the end of the Book of Acts, Paul is in Rome. That was three years** after he wrote this desire that he had to come to Rome. We know that it was the will of God that Paul was to go to Rome. Jesus said, "As you have borne witness of Me in Jerusalem, so must you bear witness of Me in Rome." Often, God reveals His will in advance, but it takes time for it to be accomplished. So, Paul is writing to the Romans, expressing his desire to come.
- **A bondservant of Jesus Christ!** He calls himself a servant, a willing slave forever, of Jesus Christ. When Paul was on his way to Damascus to imprison the believers of Jesus Christ, breathing out murder against them, being determined to wipe out this sect! The Lord apprehended Paul. As he was lying there on the ground, the Lord spoke to him, (**Act 9:4b-5**) "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*" [5] *And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* It was at that point that Paul became a servant of Jesus Christ.
- **Called to be an apostle! Now, about twenty-seven years after conversion,** he is writing to the Roman church, calling himself a bondservant (bondslave) of Jesus Christ, *called to be an apostle* (*apostolos* – an ambassador of the Gospel, a messenger, one that is sent). In Ephesians, he said (**Eph 1:1a**) *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.* Here he speaks of his calling to be an Apostle. One who has been sent out by the Lord.
- **Separated! (aphorizo – set off by boundary) (Gal 1:15)** *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace.*
- **To the gospel of God,** We see in this passage two great facts. **First, that it is God's good news!** It was God who so loved the world! It was God who sent His Son! About the only place you are going to find **good news** today is in the church. You will not see it online or on the newscasts. But the good news of Jesus Christ is just as good as it ever was! The news that God can transform our lives from darkness to light! From the power of Satan to God, the wonderful, good news!

**Rom 1:2** which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

- **Secondly, the good news was promised through His prophets in the Old Testament Scriptures!** The good news of the gospel is promised throughout the Bible! As you go through the Old Testament and the prophesies of the Scriptures, they are prophesying of the coming of God's anointed King or the Messiah. Jesus Christ is the Messiah! Thus, the good news is that God has fulfilled the promises to their fathers, the prophets. God has sent the Messiah, the Savior into the world. Paul is telling the readers this is not just some new fad that has recently been concocted but has been promised in the Bible for hundreds of years!

- **Isaiah said, (Isa 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.** The good news of the Messiah who would come and who would bear our sins. God would put on Him the iniquities of us all. But by bearing our sin, He would grant to us eternal life, forgiveness of sins. This is the promise of this good news through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures!

***Rom 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,***

- **There are over three hundred predictions in the Bible, concerning Jesus,** giving details and aspects of His life, which were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. It, as far as mathematical probabilities, is impossible for anyone to fulfill those predictions. And yet Jesus, supernaturally, did!
- **He was declared, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.** Many of the promises concerning the Messiah were related to David. It started when David was talking to Nathan, telling him that he was thinking it was not fair for God to be worshipped in a tent, while he was sitting in his luxurious palace. David said what a good thing it would be to build a house for God, in fact a temple which would exceed anything ever built! It would be a magnificent house of God and for God! Nathan the prophet said that that sounded like a splendid idea. Do all that is in your heart. Nathan went home but could not sleep that night. God woke him, saying Nathan, you spoke out of turn. You did not wait on Me. You did not listen for My voice. You encouraged David to build Me a house. Nathan, I cannot have David building Me a house. This guy's hands are too bloody! Nathan, you must go back and tell David that he cannot build Me a house. But you tell David, I will build him a house! That there will be one of his seed that will sit upon the throne forever. That is, the Messiah will be a descendant of David!
- **The next morning as Nathan came into David,** he told him, I have some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that you cannot build God a house. You are a man of war. Your hands are bloody. But the good news is that God said that He is going to build you a house! There shall never cease one of your descendants from sitting on the throne! David immediately recognized that as a promise that from his descendants, the Messiah would come!
- **David went into the Lord, saying,** oh Lord, You took me from the sheepfold, following after the sheep. You made me the ruler over Your people. Oh God, You have done so much! I mean I am amazed at what You have already done for me. But now You speak of the future! What can I say? Here, David, probably the most articulate man who ever lived, a man who was gifted in words, praising God, yet so overwhelmed by the goodness of God, that he is speechless!
- **It is wonderful when a believer can just get to that place of awe and wonder** so much that you just cannot say anything! Savonarola said when prayer reaches its ultimate, words are impossible. You have been so overwhelmed by God's love and grace that I just, you know, just cannot find words. Anything you say is almost cheapening what God has done! In trying to express thanks, there are not any words in the English language that are adequate to express the feelings of your heart and your spirit for what the Lord has done for you.

***Rom 1:4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.***

- **And declared** (*horizo* – to mark out, specify) **to be** (In the Scriptures) **the Son of God with power** (*dunamis* – force, miraculous power). The son of David according to the Scriptures but also declared to be the *Son of God with power*.
- **(Isa 9:6a) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given.** The child was to be *of the seed of David*, but He was also *to be the Son of God given to us*. A child is born, a Son is given. Psalm two speaks about *the Son of God*. (**Psa 2:7**) *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.* We are told in (**Joh 3:16**) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!*
- **The greatest proof that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah is His resurrection from the dead!** *So declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead!* In the gospel of John, as he closes his gospel, saying many other signs Jesus did, which I did not record. But these things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you might have life in His name.

- **Now as John gave to us the sign of Jesus, the works, the miracles that prove** that He was supernatural, the Son of God, the final sign would be His resurrection from the dead! When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, (*Mat 12:39*) *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.* The only sign Jesus was going to give to them was His resurrection.

***Rom 1:5 Through Him (Jesus) we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,***

- **Paul experienced the grace of God.** He talked of himself as the chief of sinners and yet as such, he experienced the grace of God. You, too, can experience the grace of God. God's blessings, God's unmerited favor and this theme of God's grace. We are going to discover it throughout the whole book of Romans. I pray that as we come through the book of Romans, that you will come to a fuller, richer understanding of God's grace than you ever have before!
- **Much of our training is that of reward for good behavior and punishment for bad behavior.** If you want to receive special favors you are especially good. It is the reward system. The reward for being good and the punishment for being bad. It so clouds our attitude mentally that we carry this over to God.
- **There are many times where we feel, well I have been so horrible.** I have been so miserable. Surely God will not bless me today because I have been so miserable. And God does not bless you. And you say, see, I knew it! No, that is not why God did not bless you. The reason God did not bless you is that you did not believe and trust Him to bless you!
- **If you believe and trust God to bless you, He will!** If you believe that He will not, He will not! You do not have faith for the blessings. You know that I have discovered this interesting thing about grace.
- **Believers should learn to expect to be blessed by God though we realize that we do not deserve it.** Do you know what? The blessings have never stopped because I am trusting God to bless me because I know that God loves me and wants to bless me! God wants to bless you! God wants to just lavish His love upon you!
- **What a joy it is to be blessed of God!** Not on a reward of my goodness but just as a sign of His tremendous love for me!

***Rom 1:6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;***

- **Among whom you also are the called** (*kletos* – invited, appointed) **of** (or from) **Jesus Christ;** Paul said, I have been called to be an apostle. Believer, you also, have been called by Jesus Christ to be one of His followers.

***Rom 1:7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- **Paul is addressing this letter to all believers** in Rome, not to one church, **but to all** the churches in Rome.
- **Beloved of God!** These little groups of Christians in Rome are meeting because the eternal God has set His love on them! This same term, *beloved of God*, is used throughout the Bible in describing the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! He wants us to know, (*Joh 17:23b*) *that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me!*
- **Called to be saints.** It is rather tragic that the Catholic church has set up a long list of qualifications in order to be sainted by the church. The Lord does not put you through all that rigmarole. The Lord just calls you a saint. How wonderful that is! That is just by His grace. It is not that I am deserving that title, but that is something that He has given.
- **Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.** Paul begins all his letters with this *grace and peace*. It is always in that order. You never read peace and grace be to you. The reason being is that you cannot know the peace of God until you know the grace of God! It is not until you know the grace of God that you can enter into the rest that God has for His people or that peace.

***Longing to Go to Rome***

***Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.***

- **We do not know anything of the origin of the church** in the city of Rome. We are told that on the Day of Pentecost (*Act 2:10*) *Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes.* But it shows us how the gospel had spread. In fact, in the first thirty years of the early church, the gospel was taken into all the world. When Paul wrote to the Colossians, just a couple of years later, he said and the word of the gospel as it has come to you as it is in all the world.
- **In the last chapter of Acts, we find that when Paul finally arrived** at the Roman port of Puteoli, when the saints in Rome heard of Paul's arrival, they came all the way to Appii to meet Paul there and some as far as the Three Taverns. There was a strong body of believers there in Rome. Their faith was spoken of throughout the *whole world*. It is exciting that God is working in so many places today!

**Rom 1:9** *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,*

- **As Paul speaks about his prayer life, he declares that God is his witness.** Jesus said, when you pray, go into the closet, and shut the door and pray to your Father, which sees in secret. Your Father which sees in secret will reward you openly. Paul could not call others to bear witness, though they were his companions. This man Paul is an Apostle, a servant of Jesus Christ, and really an example. He was able to say, (*1Co 11:1*) *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.* The prayer life of Paul! God bears witness.

**Rom 1:10** *making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.*

- **Paul's prayer, his desire, was that he wanted to come to Rome, to meet** and to visit them. He is praying that it will be God's will, that after all this time, he would like to come and visit them in Rome. Not that he might see the sights of Rome, but to meet them!

**Rom 1:11** *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—*

- **Not to come as a tourist or a sightseer or to satisfy a curiosity** of just seeing Rome, the lights of Rome and all. But his desire was, to *impart* to them *some spiritual gift*. The end result is *your being established!*

**Rom 1:12** *that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

- **That is, just by our sharing together, I will be edified, you will be edified.** That should be the experience. Whenever we gather with the body of Christ, there should be a mutual edifying, blessing. Oh, how good to see you! Oh, what a blessing it is to be able to spend this time with you. That is what Paul is desiring. That is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, yours, and mine!

**Rom 1:13** *Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.*

- **Up to now I have been hindered. I want to see God's work in your life.** Now the Bible speaks about fruit abounding to our account. People's lives being blessed. People's lives being edified through the ministry. That is the fruit of the ministry. The blessings that come to others. Paul desires that he might bear fruit in Rome there also. He might be able to bring others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**Rom 1:14** *I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.*

- **That is, I owe them the gospel of salvation,** and ought to be preaching it to them!
- **Do you consider yourself** such a debtor? – to both the Greeks and to barbarians, to the wise and unwise – in fact to everyone in this regard?

**Rom 1:15** *So, as much as is in me, I am ready (eager) to preach the gospel (the Good News) to you who are in Rome also.*

- **Paul wants to come and preach the gospel!** He is not only ready, **he is eager** to preach it to Greeks and Barbarians, to wise and unwise exactly the same way, as he is ready to preach it in Rome! Oh, how we need that enthusiasm and high anticipation of getting out the Word of God! How eager am I?

- **The Gospel!** – (1Co 15:1-5) *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, [2] by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, [5] and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

### ***The Righteous Shall Live by Faith***

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power (dynamis – dynamite!) of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- **Here in these next two verses is the great theme in the Book of Romans!** He will give us these two wonderful verses, stated in a summary manner in the most succinct form conceivable, what is **undoubtedly the great theme of apostolic preaching, which is the great theme**, of this Epistle to the Romans! The study in God's salvation! The way God has chosen to save mankind from his fallen condition, to save us from our sins. This what the Book of Romans is all about!
- **Paul's expression of his desire to preach the gospel in Rome**, the capital of the world. He had that opportunity. It did not come just as he was expecting or hoping. He came to Rome as a prisoner of the Roman government because of his appeal to Caesar. But God blessed his time in Rome as we studied in the last chapter of Acts. Many were converted, even those of Caesar's household. So, a great ministry there in Rome! Fruit, as he desired!
- **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ!** Am I ever ashamed of the gospel?
- **For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.** These are reasons why we too, should never be ashamed of the Gospel! The power of God to salvation to completely change lives!

**Rom 1:17** For in it (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (faith from beginning to end!); as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

- **So, in the gospel of Christ, the righteousness of God through faith is revealed!** This is the verse that took hold of Martin Luther and started the Reformation. That it is, *You have been saved by grace through faith, not of works*, that man is saved. There are many people who practice hard at doing their works the right thing.
- **The Pharisees, look how hard they struggled to do the right thing.** Jesus spoke of the Pharisees of straining at a gnat. It was unlawful to eat anything that had blood. If they were jogging down the street and a gnat would go down their throat they would gag themselves straining at a gnat, trying to regurgitate the thing so they would not swallow it and thus violate the law of eating blood.
- **They tried hard to be righteous. But their righteousness was self-righteousness.** God said (*Isa 64:6a*) *But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.* Filthy rags in the sight of God! All that tremendous endeavor of the Pharisees was useless. Jesus said, (*Mat 5:20*) *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*
- **The righteousness of God is the righteousness which is through faith in Jesus Christ where God imputes to me the righteousness of Christ.** Now when Jesus said to His disciples, except your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, I am certain that their mouths dropped open and they said, no way. I mean these guys practice being righteous, but theirs was self-righteousness, as too often is ours as well. Jesus said, that is not sufficient. You must exceed, but Jesus was talking about not self-righteousness that comes by our works, but righteousness that comes by our faith in Jesus Christ. The righteousness that God accounts or imputes to me.
- **As we go in Romans, this will be one of the subjects that Paul takes up in detail.** That righteousness, which is of Christ through faith. Now the righteousness of God is revealed. That is which is imparted to me that *the just shall live by faith*, by my faith in Jesus Christ. God accounts my faith for righteousness.
- **But on the other side of the coin, being a just and righteous God, who hates sin, the wrath of God shall be revealed.** That is not a popular subject! People do not want to hear of the wrath of God. Yet, if we do not teach that God's wrath is going to come against all ungodliness and the

unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth of God in unrighteousness, we are not being honest with the people. We are not declaring the full gospel. There is that other side. Yes, God is love. Yes, God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. But the other side of the coin is God's wrath on unrighteousness.

### ***God's Wrath on Unrighteousness (Condemnation - All the World is Guilty Before God)***

**Rom 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress (hold down) the truth in unrighteousness,

- **One theme will be developed here will going all the way to Romans Chapter 3:20,** which is that for salvation to be needed, one has to understand the consequences of living without salvation, of living in the rejection of God, of living in sin!
- **For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.** This is the fact that mankind needs to be saved! It is incumbent, next to establish guilt, because unless you let people know why they need to be saved and what they need to be saved from, they will ignore your salvation.
- **It is all about one theme!** From this point here, to **(Rom 3:19b)** *that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*
- **Paul is going to establish the guilt of every single human being, who has ever lived, or ever will live, or is living before God,** no matter whether they are Jew, Gentile, or anything else, laying down a case, shutting everyone's mouth! In recognizing our guilt before God, that we would then turn to the salvation that God has provided for us! Man is a sinner. He needs the Gospel!
- **From here to the end of this chapter,** he is going to be addressing the full-blown Gentile pagan, establishing his guilt. Then, in chapter two he is going to establish guilt in the person that has a moral conscience, having some kind of religious background.
- **Then he will establish guilt even in the religious Jew!** Then everybody's mouth is shut!
- **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven.** The greatest danger facing mankind is not climate change or even a nuclear war, it is the wrath of God, because of our sin!
- **Paul is going to make the case that God's wrath is justified against sinful man.** God would not be the righteous, holy God that He is, if He were not troubled by having a righteous anger against our rebellion against Him! Just think how a righteous God reacts against our sin! God's anger against mankind is righteously building, even against our nation. Think how we have turned against Him!
- **Here we have the theme of ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men,** through the rest of this chapter. The difference? *Ungodliness* is the sin that is committed right against God! *Unrighteousness of men* is the sin we commit against our fellow man. Remember the two tablets of the Law of Moses. The first tablet dealt with man's relationship with God, whereas the second tablet dealt with our relationship with man.
- **Ungodliness always leads to wickedness!** For the rest of the chapter the point that God is making is ungodliness always leads to wickedness! Ungodliness always leads to greater and greater wickedness in mankind. You cannot remove the fact of the existence of God.
- **You cannot sin without paying the consequences for your sin.** Either your sins will be forgiven by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, or you will be punished forever for your sins. The Bible speaks of the judgment of God that is going to come upon this earth as God will judge the earth for their wickedness and their sin. We believe that that day of God's judgment is not far off. When the wickedness gets so bad, then God just says that is it. And He wipes out that generation. As He did in the days of Noah and in Sodom and Gomorrah. It is not that they did not, and we do not, know God. But they suppress, hold down, the truth of God in unrighteousness.

**Rom 1:19** *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

- **Paul now gives the indictment.** This is the cause. This is the reason. No man has an excuse for not believing in God for God has revealed Himself to man by His creation. It is God's intent that man in observing God's creation, comes to the acknowledgment and the knowledge of the existence of God. You cannot have design without a designer or a machine without a mechanic or an engineer who designed it. And so here we are. The wrath of God has been revealed because when they knew that God existed.

- **Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** The Bible tells us that the heavens declare the glory of God. You go out and look up into the heavens. You see the moon, the stars, the planets, the galaxies. They declare to you of the Creator. Even scientists today are forced to admit the day of creation. They call it the big bang. But when it all started, we say that there was a Creator. God was the first cause, not the big bang, being the first cause.

**Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

- **(Psa 19:1) The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.** The life forms show design! And what fabulous design it is! You look at the plants, the flowers, the insects, the animals, and man. You have to marvel at the design.
- **Design, marvelous design!** They tell you of the wisdom of God. The heavens, the awesomeness of the universe tells you of the glory of God! Day unto day they are talking to you. Night unto night they are speaking. It is a universal language. That is why in every culture, even the most primitive, there is the awareness and the consciousness of God and the worship of God. Many times, it is false. They have been led astray, but yet the basic idea and concept of the existence of a Creator, a higher power, is there. Why? Because it is revealed throughout His creation.

**Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

- **Now we have the downward plunge of man!** Yes, God exists. It is obvious in creation. The design testifies of the Creator. But yet men do not glorify Him as God. We are exalting man. We are in the age of humanism. Where man is exalted. Actually, we are getting to the place where animals and trees are being exalted above man. The worshipping of the creation rather than the Creator.
- **They knew God but they would not glorify Him as God.** How do these things come about? You have to get really imaginative. When you try and put God out of the equation, it takes an awful lot of imagination. They *became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools** (moronic thinking),

- **Why do we tend to laugh at this?** We see them on the way down! Because it is foolish when you really stop to think of it. To think that your body could have developed through billions of years of fortuitous occurrences of accidental circumstances is ridiculous. But man is on the downhill plunge!

**Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

- **Next, we see the worship of man, which is what we see today!** They perverted the truth! They moved to idolatry! They turn away from the living God and turn to worshipping man – and birds and four-footed and creeping things! Young people by the thousands worshipping man. Gathering at the concerts worshipping man.
- **Now because of this, they changed the glory of an uncorruptible God into the image of a man or beast or birds or whatever.**

**Rom 1:24 Therefore** (because of suppression, perverting of truth, and idolatry) **God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,**

- **God gave them over!** A further step down. **God gave them over to uncleanness, to their lusts, to following and doing the lusts of their own hearts, dishonoring their bodies among themselves.**

**Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

- **The worship of the creature is irrational.** To take a rose. To look at its beautiful design. To see the glorious color. To hold it to your nose and take a deep breath. And smell that marvelous fragrance. Then to hold it out and admire it and to say, “That’s God.” That is ridiculous. That is not God. That is a creation of God. It is irrational to behold the beauty of the rose and to worship the rose!
- **The rational thing is to worship the One who was able to create such a beautiful flower.** The Creator is always greater than the creation! Worshipping the Creator rather than the creature is completely logical. But man has things all mixed up today. Today, we are worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. We are ascribing to the creature all types of miraculous powers of developing organs and so forth in order to meet the various recognized needs that I might have. We are going

downhill! Changing the truth of God to a lie. Oh, how that is being done today! Because they did not want to retain the truth of God. They changed it into a lie.

**Rom 1:26** *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women (thelus – females) exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. (Lesbianism)*

- *In marriage, concerning divorce, Jesus spoke of male and female - (Mar 10:6-8a) But from the beginning of the creation, God 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.' [7] 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, [8] AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'.*

**Rom 1:27** *Likewise also the men (arrhen – males), leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due (fitting).*

- **God gave them over! Which was fitting for what they had been doing.** It is interesting that Satan will bring man to the lowest level of filth.
- **Consider the worship of these men in India**, who have declared that they have had an experience of becoming gods, the avatar. The Saibaba's and the others that brilliant professors go over to learn and to sit and to worship these men. These people consider that go over to worship the Sia Baba and so forth, a tremendous honor to drink his urine or to eat his defecation. Because they feel that god, Sai Baba is entering them. Look at what Satan is reducing people to!
- **Some of the practices in homosexuality are much the same.** The scating and so forth in homosexuality is the same thing. Satan will bring you to the lowest filthiest level! So here are men who refuse God. They do not want retain God in their minds. They will not acknowledge the truth of God.
- **In addition, this sin is against nature.** *"Exchanged the natural use," leaving the natural use!"* It has been seen over and over that once a society or culture accepts or approves sin against nature, it is on its final plunge down. That sinning against nature and flaunting it, results in the death of that culture or society! Consider the sin of eliminating gender distinction, currently going on today! You are on the way down. You are going to end up at the bottom! For this cause God gave them over to their *vile passions*.
- **Notice, he says the wrath of God is going to be revealed from heaven.** It is when man gets to this level that the wrath of God is revealed. The wrath of God was revealed against Sodom and Gomorrah when it came to the place where the homosexuals were actively flaunting their sin! Parading their gay pride. God said, "It's enough." He destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It would seem that the activity of the homosexual community, the gay pride parades, national promotion of LGBTQ, transgender and things of this nature, are only an indication of that we are at the place where the wrath of God will soon again be revealed from heaven.

**Rom 1:28-32** *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, (I don't want to know about God.) God gave them over to a debased mind (Void of God and the understanding of God.), to do those things which are not fitting (decent); [29] being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, [30] backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; [32] who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

- **A list of activities that the world is doing but that you would never think of doing.** Yet, we see many showing interest in watching today's polluting television and movies, taking pleasure in those that do them! We watch these horrible things. People being blown away and you know, the tough guy. Heads rolling and things like that. They take pleasure in seeing fornication or adultery, which are being portrayed in movies. So not only do they do them, but they take pleasure. Those who take pleasure in those things are guilty.
- **The Bible says, (Gal 6:7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.** If you sow to the flesh, of the flesh you are going to reap corruption. If you are sowing this stuff into your mind. Taking pleasure and sowing this junk into your mind to the flesh,

then you are going to reap corruption. People just do not go out and do these things. They are planted in their minds.

- **We notice more and more that those involved tragic murders**, confess of being hooked on pornography. How that pornography finally did not satisfy. They had to actually go out and experience it. And thus, that chain of murders. You are sowing that in your mind. You are planting seeds of corruption.
- **How prayer is needed! Oh, that we would pray that God would help us to keep ourselves pure.** Our minds pure! Our hearts pure! That we would sow to the Spirit. The Word of God is Spirit, and it is Life. This will transform you. This will change you. This will elevate you. It will lift you out of the pit and this world and its corruption. It will put you on another level, a higher level. A pure level. A holy level. That is why it is so important that we guard what goes into our mind, as we plant to the Spirit, as we study stay in the Word, because we are living in a corrupt world, and it is trying to infect you with its corruption and evil. You must stand. To stand and pray!
- **Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.** We must make that purpose in our heart. I am not going to defile my mind. I am not going to defile my body. I am going to stay pure for God's sake. I am going to seek after God. As you do, you are lifted higher and higher.
- **If you turn away from God. You do not want God in your mind. You take that path.** You begin to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator. You will end up at the bottom of filth. You are moving in one direction or the other. Upward or downward.
- **Moving up!** You determine the direction by your own desires. I want to seek God. I want to be conformed into His image. I want to be pure and holy as He is pure and holy.
- **Moving downward!** I do not want to keep God in my mind. I want to do my own thing. I want to follow my own desires. You are moving down. Satan will take you to the bottom. You will find yourself doing things that you never dreamed that you would ever do or were capable of doing. You find yourself in that pit!
- **Here in chapter one, Paul is showing that without God, we are all of us are lost!** The whole world is guilty. As we move into the next chapter he will confirm that. There is none righteous, no not one. He will show us that we are all guilty thus we all need salvation that God has offered to man. We will understand now even more the grace of God. It is extended to man at the bottom of the pit!
- **That man who has gone all the way down to the depths is not beyond the love of God** or the reach of God or the grace of God! For God's grace reaches to the lowest hell to bring a man out of the pit who is ready to be destroyed.
- **Oh, how marvelous is the grace of God that He has offered to you and to me! All praise and glory to Him!**

#### KEY POINTS:

- **Great Theme of the Epistle - Key Verses: Rom 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Rom 1:17* *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*
- **The World's Danger – God's Wrath Revealed Against Human Sin**
- **Ungodliness always leads to wickedness – to greater and greater wickedness, all the way down!**
- **You cannot sin without paying the consequences for your sin. Without God, we are all lost!**
- **But, that man who has gone all the way down is not beyond the love, reach and the grace of God.**
- **God's grace reaches to the lowest hell to bring a man out of the pit who is ready to be destroyed!**
- **How marvelous! How wonderful is the grace of God that He has offered to you and to me! All praise and glory to Him!**
- **How prayer is needed! Oh, that we would pray that God would help us to keep ourselves pure and from idols.**

#### CLOSING PRAYER:

**Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 2!**