

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Romans - The Righteous Will Live by Faith
Chapter 1 – Righteousness & Wrath
Drue Warner
9-20-26

PRIMARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” – Romans 1:17

THEMES

CH. 1-3 Depravity, Justice, and Grace

WARNING

“The gospel is offensive, but it doesn’t mean that we have to be.”

As we dive into the study of Romans, remember that the gospel is offensive.

What makes something offensive? Offense usually comes when our pride is assaulted – the pride of what we know, love, or believe. As we dive into Romans, get ready to have your pride assaulted, but also know that God’s assault on our pride is also a gift, because He is showing us that we cannot save ourselves. Only Jesus saves.

OVERVIEW Romans 1:1-32

- Greetings (vs. 1-7)
- Gratitude (vs. 8-13)
- Gospel (vs. 14-17)
- Godlessness (vs. 18-32)

TEXT

GREETINGS from: (vs. 1-6)

¹ Paul, a servant (bondservant, “doulos”) of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle (chosen representative, one who is sent) and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son,

GREETINGS to: (vs. 7)

⁷ To all in Rome who are beloved of God and called to be saints (sanctified ones): Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

GRATITUDE (vs. 8-13)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world... ¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.

GOSPEL (vs. 14-17)

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. ¹⁶ **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.** ¹⁷ **For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”**

- “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ... **if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!**” - Galatians 2:20-21

GODLESSNESS (vs. 18-32)

¹⁸ **The wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

- **Massive transition** from the righteousness of God to the wrath of God.
- **This is foundational to a full understanding and appreciation of the gospel.**
- **God’s wrath is being revealed against:**
 - 1) godlessness – disrespect (pride)
 - 2) wickedness – rebellion (lust)
- **Worst of the worst.. suppressing the truth**

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been **clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, so that **people are without excuse**.

SLIDES (Undeniable truth of a Creator)

- Sun, **moon**, and stars, **rainbow**
- Ocean, mountains, **flowers, crops (i.e., corn)**
- Animals (hummingbird, spiderweb, peacock, praying mantis, lizard, gator, tiger, bulldog)
- **Birth of a baby (Grace)**

²¹ For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him**, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God** for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

- **Wickedness = robbing God of His glory + ingratitude + idolatry**

God gave them over to...

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

- **God gave them over to:**
 1. Sinful desires

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

- **CULTURAL CONTROVERSY**

There's a lot of debate and controversy in our culture about homosexuality.

Is it a choice? Is it something people are born into or something people choose? It's an interesting debate but it doesn't really matter because the root of it is the sinful nature of mankind that manifests itself in each of our lives in a variety of similar and dissimilar ways (which we'll see even more as we continue in the text).

It's worth pausing here to say that the Bible is very clear that homosexuality is a result of our sinful rebellion and prideful ingratitude to God, it's unnatural, and it's because God gave them over, not only to sinful desires but also to shameful lusts.

- **God gave them over to:**
 1. Sinful desires
 2. Shameful lusts (i.e., 1 John 2:16 – flesh, eyes, pride of life)

For any of us to say that our sin is okay, simply because it feels natural to us, is the worst thing we can do. Of course, it feels natural to us! We're sinners! When we justify our sin, we cut ourselves off from the possible forgiveness and grace of God.

We need to acknowledge our sin, confess it, and invite God to transform our hearts to change our desires.

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

- **God gave them over to:**
 1. Sinful desires
 2. Shameful lusts
 3. Depraved mind

They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; **they invent ways of doing evil**; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity (loyalty), no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that **those who do such things deserve death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

FINAL THOUGHTS

So, what is the Good News in all of this Bad News?

- Q: Why do I always end with the catch phrase... "And THAT'S Good News?"

ISAIAH 59:1-2, 18

"Your iniquities have separated you from your God...

The LORD looked and... saw that there was no one... to intervene;
so he stretched out his own arm and achieved salvation for him."

- "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us."
- Galatians 3:13

This text speaks to the power of the Gospel, God's willingness and ability to save sinful man by "achieving salvation for him." And we are reminded of Paul's words earlier in this text, ***"I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of salvation to all those who believe."***

JEWS FOR JESUS song

"I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel" by Stuart Dauermann (1974)

And THAT'S Good News!