

Roman's Bible Study
Wrath Revealed
Romans 2:6-3:20

Prayer for understanding and for the illumination of the Holy Spirit

READ Romans 2:1-11

Review: What is the fundamental problem of human existence? (see ch1 v.21-25)

Define:

Idolatry- Is the act of humans placing anything in the created order above the creator himself. When humans worship things other than the creator, they hand over their God given authority to lifeless "forces" or "powers".

Sin- missing the mark, failure of worship

How are they connected?

Idolatry and sin is a failure of responsibility.

Worship- Is a matter of gazing with delight, gratitude, and love at the creator God and expressing his praise in wise, articulate speech

What comes to your mind when you think of the Judgement of God? Why must God bring Judgement? God's judgement is an act of grace, handing people ultimately over to what they desire (as God is currently doing as Paul said in ch. 1 v. 24, 26, 28). God's ultimate judgement will be when he finally steps in and says no to evil, sin, and injustice, and abolishes all things that are against him and his good creation. God's judgement will be when God applies the power of Christ's redemption across the board and liberates all creation from its bondage to death and decay (Romans 8:18-25).

What should lead someone to repentance?

It is God's grace and kindness (v. 4) that is meant to lead someone to change their mind about God and Christ.

What does it mean "to obey the truth" (v. 8)? Does this contradict 'salvation by faith alone'?

The phrase "obey the gospel" appears elsewhere in the scriptures (Rom. 10:16; 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:17). The gospel is not law or instructions or advice. It is news. It is not essentially something to obey but something to believe. The first thing to do is to keep foremost in our minds that the saving work is already done. Let us obey—let us heed—that truth. Let us believe and live in a way that demonstrates that we believe the gospel is true.

READ Romans 2:12-16

- Jeremiah 31:33-34
- How does Paul's gospel include God judging mankind by Christ Jesus?

Paul's Gospel is about the Lordship of Jesus Christ who has ascended to the right hand of the father, who is ruling over all things. Jesus must continue to rule until he has put all his enemies under his feet (1. Cor. 15:20-28). Christ ruling includes his judgement to liberate his creation from its slavery to sin, corruption, decay, and death.

READ Roman 2:17-24

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The key to understanding this passage is recognizing what Israel's God-given vocation is. Israel's vocation was rooted in the image bearing vocation.

Genesis 1:26-28

- What is the role of as image-bearers?

According to N.T Wright "Humans were made to be 'image-bearers,' to reflect the praises of creation back to the Creator and to reflect the Creator's wise and loving stewardship into the world." Page 99 of *The Day the Revolution Began*.

What do we learn about Israel's vocation in these passages?

- Exodus 19:3-6 "kingdom of Priests, a holy nation"
- Isaiah 42:6-7 "a light for the nations"
- Revelation 5:9-10 (What the cross of Christ accomplished) the blood of the lamb ransomed people for God, making them a Kingdom and priests to our God and they shall reign on the earth

Paul quotes Isaiah 52:5 (Paralleling well with Ezekiel 36:20-22) in Romans 2:24, drawing on the very center of the prophet's critique of Israel, Israel had not just made a few mistakes but had failed completely in the task God set it. How would Israel's failure affect God's reputation in the world?

The point of Paul's accusation in 2:21-23 is not that he thinks all Jews commit adultery or steal or rob temples. The point is that if even some Jews were doing these things (and, of course, Paul points out that Gentiles do also), this completely undercut Israel's boast that as a nation, it was still the light of the world, able to reveal God's law and truth to the rest of humankind. Israel was failing to fulfill its part in the covenant God made with them, through Abraham, to bring blessing to all nations. What is the solution to the problem of Israel's failure to fulfill their part of the covenant? Answering that question is where Paul's argument is headed in the rest of the letter.

In 2:25-29, Paul is saying that labels for people, just like for items in a store, can mislead. What are the labels that Paul is talking about and the deception that occurs?

Paul is talking about labels that are visible such as circumcision that marks someone as part of the family of God. Someone may be deceived in thinking that physical markers such as circumcision is enough to please God.

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How can uncircumcised Gentiles "fulfill the law," as Paul claims they do, when circumcision itself is a requirement of the law (2:25-29)? Because of the New Covenant in Christ, one can now fulfill the law by believing the Gospel and receiving a new transformed heart by the Spirit.

READ Romans 3:1-8

What does Paul emphasize about God in v. 1-8?

The faithfulness of God in light of the unfaithfulness of God's people.

What advantage do Jews have as an advantage over gentiles?

They were entrusted with the "Oracles of God."

In Romans 3:3 Paul hits another key point in his argument. Since Israel has failed, will God revoke his plea? Not at all, he says. God still intends to fulfill his promises, his covenant to bring blessing to all the nations through Israel. How did this happen?

Jesus the Messiah, who acted as Israel's representative Israelite, accomplish Israel's ultimate purpose.

As believers we have been entrusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ. How is Safeharbor fulfilling the calling of being a messenger of the gospel or living as a beacon of light for others to see?

How are you personally fulfilling this call?

READ Romans 3:9-20

Do the people of Israel have any advantage over gentiles in being less guilty?

No, Israel is judged by the law and held accountable for their failures by the law. The exile that Israel experienced was a direct consequence to their failing to keep the covenant.

Why does he choose to quote so much from the Old Testament?

Paul chooses to quote so much of the Old Testament to show that all humankind, Jews and Gentiles as a whole are ignorant of God and have gone astray, pursuing Idols rather than the creator.

In what ways has God revealed his goodness to you in this study this evening?

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