



# The Book of Romans

ROMANS 1:18-32

# Main Theme of Romans

*The righteousness of God which is available to all who are justified by faith in the salvation provided in Jesus Christ (1:16-17, 3:21-26).*

# Theological Message



*“The gospel reveals how God is **righteously righteousing** (i.e., **justifying**) **unrighteous individuals**—**both Jew and Gentile**—at this stage in the history of salvation.”*

--John Stott

**“In it [the gospel of Christ] the righteousness of God is revealed” (1:17)**

<b>1:1-17 – Introduction</b>	<b>1:18-32 – Gentiles → guilty</b>	<b>3:21-31</b> <b>Justification stated</b>	<b>4 – Justification illustrated</b>	<b>5 – Justification explained</b>	<b>6 – Victory over the flesh</b>	<b>7 – Victory from the Law</b>	<b>8 – Victory in the Spirit</b>	<b>9 – Israel: past riches</b>	<b>10 – Israel: present rejection</b>	<b>11 – Israel: future restoration</b>	<b>12 – To the Church</b>	<b>13 – To society</b>	<b>14:1 – 16:21</b> <b>To the weaker believer</b>	<b>16:22-27 – Conclusion</b>				
	<b>Sin</b>														<b>Salvation</b>	<b>Sanctification</b>	<b>Sovereignty</b>	<b>Service</b>
	<i>Righteousness Demanded</i>														<i>Righteousness Declared</i>	<i>Righteousness Developed</i>	<i>Righteousness Declined</i>	<i>Righteousness Demonstrated</i>
<b>1:18 – 3:20</b>	<b>3:21 – 5:21</b>	<b>6:1 – 8:39</b>	<b>9:1 – 11:36</b>	<b>12:1 – 16:21</b>														

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→ guilty	old → guilty	stated	illustrated	explained	r the flesh	n the Law	the Spirit	st riches	nt rejection	restoration	Church	ciety	:21	believer																

**← TODAY'S FOCUS**

**Sin**  
*Righteousness Demanded*  
**1:18 – 3:20**

**Salvation**  
*Righteousness Declared*  
**3:21 – 5:21**

**Sanctification**  
*Righteousness Developed*  
**6:1 – 8:39**

**Sovereignty**  
*Righteousness Declined*  
**9:1 – 11:36**

**Service**  
*Righteousness Demonstrated*  
**12:1 – 16:21**

**16:22-27 – Conclusion**

**“The just shall live by faith” (1:17)**

	<b>General Understanding (Akin)</b>	
<b>1:18 – 20</b>	<b>Gentiles → GUILTY</b>	
<b>2:1 – 3:8</b>	<b>Jews → GUILTY</b>	
<b>3:9 – 20</b>	<b>The World → GUILTY</b>	

	<b>General Understanding (Akin)</b>	<b>My Revised Understanding</b>
<b>1:18 – 20</b>	<b>Gentiles → GUILTY</b>	<b>Those who rebel against God's gracious general revelation → GUILTY</b>
<b>2:1 – 3:8</b>	<b>Jews → GUILTY</b>	<b>Those who rebel against God's gracious special revelation → GUILTY</b>
<b>3:9 – 20</b>	<b>The World → GUILTY</b>	<b>CONCLUSION: All have rebelled against God's gracious revelation → GUILTY</b>

## **PART TWO: SIN**

### ***Righteousness Demanded, 1:18 – 3:20***

**1:18 – 20**

**Those who rebel against God's gracious  
general revelation → GUILTY**

**2:1 – 3:8**

**Those who rebel against God's gracious  
special revelation → GUILTY**

**3:9 – 20**

**CONCLUSION: All have rebelled against  
God's gracious revelation → GUILTY**



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1:18a, BECAUSE the wrath of God is being revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness

**AND THE POINT WILL BE:** ALL are ungodly and unrighteous, and therefore GUILTY and in need of being justified!

# God's Righteousness

- **1:17, “the righteousness of God is revealed” – God's SAVING Righteousness**
- **1:18, “the wrath of God is being revealed” – God's JUDGING Righteousness**

# Two Problems People Have with God's Wrath

- The minimization of **human sin**



*“Sinning is any feeling or thought or speech or action that comes from a heart that does not treasure God over all other things. And the bottom of sin, the root of all sinning, is such a heart—a heart that prefers anything above God, a heart that does not treasure God over all other persons and all other things...Sin is:*

*The glory of God not honored.*

*The holiness of God not revered.*

*The greatness of God not admired.*

*The power of God not praised.*

*The truth of God not sought.*

*The wisdom of God not esteemed.*

*The beauty of God not treasured.*

*The goodness of God not savored.*

*The faithfulness of God not trusted.*

*The promises of God not believed.*

*The commandments of God not obeyed.*

*The justice of God not respected.*

*The wrath of God not feared.*

*The grace of God not cherished.*

*The presence of God not prized.*

*The person of God not loved.”*

*-- John Piper*

# Two Problems People Have with God's Wrath

- The minimization of **human sin**
- The minimization of **God's righteousness**

# The MAJOR REASON God's wrath is being revealed

*“against ungodliness and unrighteousness”*

- *“ungodliness”* – the lack of love for God
- *“unrighteousness”* – the lack of love for others

# **BIG PICTURE 1:24-25**

## **God's wrath is being revealed**

**1:18b-32 is summarized in 1:24-25**

**WHY? 1:25 summarizes 1:18b-23**

**#1 1:25a, People exchanged the truth of God for a lie**

**#2 1:25b, People worshipped the creature rather than the Creator**

**HOW? 1:24 summarizes 1:26-32**

**#3 1:24, God gave people over to the lusts of their hearts**

# THE REASON

*Why is God's wrath being revealed?*

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**#2 1:25b, People worshipped the creature rather than the Creator**

1:21, knew God (because of creation), but did not honor him or give thanks to him

1:23, exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for corruptible creation

# THE CONSEQUENCE

*How is God's wrath being revealed?*

1:26-32 is summarized in 1:24

“God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity”

IDEA: God allows sin to run its course and permits people to go their own way without restraint.



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**CONCLUSION (1:32):** They do what they know is wrong and celebrate it!

