

## ***Romans Chapter 1***

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### **Introduction:**

- The New Testament is divided up into three categories:
  1. Gospels, the first four books dealing with the life of Christ.
  2. Acts, Christ's ministry through the Apostles, the birth of the church.
  3. Epistles, a series of letters which emphasize matters of doctrine, Romans being the first of the Epistles. 13-14 / 21.
- Romans is not the first of Paul's letters chronologically, but it is the first in prominence, importance, and size.
- In determining proper or Biblical behavior for the Church, we use *hermeneutics*, or scriptural interpretation as our guide.
- If something was taught by Jesus, practiced in Acts, and described in the epistles, then we feel that it can be properly practiced by the Church.
- Paul had been unable to actually go to Rome, so he did the next best thing, he wrote a letter.
- Paul had previously persecuted the church – he was on his way to Damascus, breathing out murder against the church when the Lord Jesus apprehended him.

**Acts 9:3-6** “<sup>3</sup>And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: <sup>4</sup>And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?” <sup>5</sup>And he said, who art thou Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. <sup>6</sup>And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?...”

- 25 or so years later Paul wrote this epistle around 57 AD while visiting Corinth for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Written about 3 years prior to his arrival in Rome.
- It was the will of God that Paul would eventually go to Rome, which had been Paul's desire also.

**Acts 23:11** “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

- Church / Catholic tradition states that Peter founded the church in Rome and that he was eventually crucified there.

- Peter is not mentioned even once in the letter to the Romans. Had Peter been present he would certainly have been acknowledged in some way. Had Peter been involved in the establishment of the church, given the praise and encouragement that Paul sends, Peter would certainly have in some way been mentioned, but that is not the case.
- The Roman church was more than likely founded by the Roman converts from Pentecost.

**Acts 2:8-10** “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes...”

**Acts 10:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, <sup>2</sup>a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.”

- The Roman church was founded relatively early in church history because it had gained an almost celebrity status being famous for their faith, inspiring others to faith, it had been around for a while prior to Paul's letter.
- Paul knew some of the members of the Roman church personally, they are mentioned at the end of this book as he asks the church to greet a number of people.
- Not just a slave movement in Rome, but also reached into the household of Caesar (**Philippians 4:22**).
- “All roads lead to Rome” – and they also lead from Rome...
- Romans was written in Greek to a Latin speaking people. Greek was the international language of the day and the language of the educated.
- Romans was intended to be shared and read to the other churches.

**Theme:** Righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Romans 1:17** “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”

- Romans talks about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, addresses basic Bible doctrines and or questions of faith, it explains justification by faith, and portrays God's grace more directly than any other letter.
- Religion whether it's the institutional, or simply the dictates of the individual heart is the attempt of man to climb the spiritual ladder to try to reach God by his own efforts. Relationship is our Heavenly Father condescending, and reaching down to the lowest pit, taking hold of us, and bring us up into His presence.
- The real difference being that of who is actually doing the work of salvation and who would get the glory.
- Romans has been referred to as the Gospel of Grace, because that is what it's all about, the grace of God, His unmerited favor working effectively in the life of the believer.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

**Key Verse:** V: 17 “The just shall live by faith.”

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V: 1 “**Paul**” as opposed “Saul”, there is no indication of how Paul's name change came about. Saul is a Hebrew name which means “asked for”, as in the first king of Israel.

- “Paul” / “Paulos” literally “small” or “little”. “Paul” may have been his “Roman” name in that the custom was to have a name for each cultural group.
- Another possibility is that being a new creature in Christ Jesus, he simply got a new name.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Abram – Abraham

Jacob – Israel

Simon - Peter

Exalted father – father of nations / multitudes heal catcher / supplanter – governed by God shifting sand – pebble, little rock.

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### **Back ground on Paul:**

1. Born a Jew, from the tribe of Benjamin.
2. Born a Roman citizen, in the Roman port city of Tarsus.
3. Living in the Grecian culture, acquainted with the ways of the world.
4. Perfectly suited to bring the Gospel message to Jews, Romans, and Greeks.
5. Paul was trained by a famous Jewish rabbi, Gamaliel - he knew the Torah.
6. He was a Pharisee and part of the Sanhedrin.

7. He participated in the trial and stoning of Stephen, the first martyr of the church, and given the proximity to the Passover may have participated in Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin.
8. After his Damascus road experience, and becoming a Christian he spent time in Damascus speaking and teaching in their synagogues.
9. He then spent 3 years in the deserts of Arabia being discipled by the Lord. Just like Moses, David, and many others. (**Galatians 1:17-18**)
10. Upon his return to Damascus he was soon run out of town and went to Jerusalem to see Peter, and also spent some time with the Apostle James, the Lord's half brother.
11. He was sent back to Tarsus for 7 years until Barnabas finally came and got him (**Acts 11:25**) and brought him back to Antioch, where his public ministry got started some 10 years after his conversion.

1<sup>st</sup> thing mentioned:

**“A servant / bondservant”** – “**doulos**”, a willing slave, a slave by choice – of Jesus Christ.

- A regular slave would serve for six years, and be set free in the 7<sup>th</sup>. Being a bond servant or a “**doulos**” is a voluntary, and a life time commitment.

**“Called”** – (G-2822) “**kletos**”; divinely selected and appointed.

Jesus speaking to Ananias about Paul:

**Acts 9:15** “**But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen (divine – consecrated) vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:.**”

**Isaiah 42:6** “**I, the Lord, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.**”

If we're not called to our ministry or vocation then it's a work of the flesh.

Paul later wrote to Timothy:

**1 Timothy 1:12** “**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**”

**“Apostle”** - literally a “sent out one” – messenger.

**Ephesians 1:1** “**Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.**”

**“Separated”** - Set apart for God's purposes, in the sense of sanctified or consecrated.

**“Gospel”** – good tidings, glad tidings, the good news.

- Specifically identified as the “Gospel of God” because there are many false gospels out there of which we’re warned against.

**Galatians 1:8** “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

- The church is the only place you will find the true Gospel of God today.
- Paul knows who he is, what he is positionally, who called him, that he was chosen, ordained of God. He knows what he was called to and what it will cost him.

V: 2 The Gospel had been foretold in scripture: a promised Savior.

- Which He had promised: writing to a mixed audience – Jews and Romans – all believers – emphasizing to the Jews that Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy.

**Hebrews 1:1** “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,”

**Deuteronomy 18:15** “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken.”

- The prophetic promise was of the Gospel of Salvation, the coming Messiah, not specifically of Paul.

*“Holy Scriptures”* - Paul had reverence for God’s Word, as we should. (OT/NT?)

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

- **Holy:** pure, un-defiled, whole, without blemish.
- **Scriptures:** graphne, writings.

V: 3 The totality of scriptures are about Jesus – about God our Salvation.

**Psalms 40:7** “Lo I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”

- The seed of David: The Messiah would be a physical descendant of David.

The Lord's promise to David:

**2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16** “<sup>12</sup>And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shall sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build an house for My name, and I will stablish the throne of His kingdom for ever.” - “<sup>16</sup>And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

**Isaiah 11:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: <sup>2</sup>And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

**Matthew 1:1-16** (Joseph's genealogy)

**Luke 3:23-38** (Mary's genealogy)

- Both descending from David.

V: 4 Declared to be the Son of God: By the resurrection from the dead.

- Declared to be the Son of God by God Himself:

**Psalms 45:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. <sup>7</sup>Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

**Matthew 3:16-17** “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup>And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Mt. of transfiguration:

**Matthew 17:5** “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

- All the other miracles, the testimony of men – these are all secondary to the power displayed in the resurrection of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:41-43, 54-55** “<sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. <sup>42</sup>So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in

weakness; it is raised in power.” - “<sup>54</sup>So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

**Philippians 3:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith, the righteousness which is of God by faith: <sup>10</sup>That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

**1 Peter 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

- In these first 4 verses, the very first part of this epistle we see all three persons of the God head, the Trinity:
  - V:1 – “God”
  - V:3 – “His Son Jesus Christ”
  - V: 4 – “the Spirit of Holiness”

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- The grace of God is greatly misunderstood and or discounted by many.

“God loves you.” God has called us into a personal loving relationship with Him.

- Our part is to simply trust and believe in the deep care and compassion that God freely extends to us, essentially to respond to His initiated love towards us.
- Not trying to earn it, or deserve it, or to exact it - but just to receive it and allow that love to change our lives in His time in His way.

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V: 5 By whom or through whom - meaning Jesus - because He is the way, the only way.

**Romans 11:36** “For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”

- Received grace and apostleship.

**John 1:14** “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**John 1:17** “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

- Grace: undeserved, unmerited favor, as opposed to justice or mercy.
- Webster’s dictionary: favor or goodwill; a manifestation of favor, esp. by a superior; the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God; the influence or spirit of God operating in humans; virtue or excellence of divine origin; the condition of being in God’s favor or one of the elect.

**Numbers 6:24-26** “<sup>24</sup>The Lord bless thee and keep thee; <sup>25</sup>the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; <sup>26</sup>The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- Apostleship = “sent out ones” – (commission) – ambassadors for Jesus.
- Apostle (apostello - Gr.) = “Missionary” (Latin).

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you (obedience); and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

**John 17:18** “As you have sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

- For obedience to the faith...for the love of Jesus.

**John 14:15, 21** “<sup>15</sup>If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” - “<sup>21</sup>He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

- Grace for obedience as opposed to a license to sin; Sloppy agape – greasy grace – balance in the Word of God.

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? <sup>17</sup>If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

**Hebrews 10:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”



**Hebrews 6:4-6** “<sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, <sup>5</sup>and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, <sup>6</sup>if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

- When we talk about obedience, we’re not talking about it in a legalistic sense, or in a mindless religious sense, our obedience is a loving response just to honor Him and love Him on His terms.
- Our obedience to Him is based on Love, His love for us, and our loving response to Him; not trying to obtain His favor, not trying to earn our salvation, or a better standing - just loving Him.
  - Legalism is self-centered; discipline is God centered.
  - The legalistic heart says, “I will do this thing to gain merit with God.”
  - The disciplined heart says, “I will do this thing because I love God and want to please Him.”

**1 John 5:3** “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not grievous / burdensome.”

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: <sup>15</sup>And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.”

**Acts 1:21** Seeking to be obedient to the scriptures, they begin to look for a replacement for Judas, not knowing that Saul of Tarsus is being prepared by the Lord.

- Peter begins to describe the qualifications of an Apostle:
- If the current Apostles were incorrect in their nomination of Judas’ replacement they also may not have been right on target about the qualifications\*. Only God really knows.
  1. \*Accompanied the rest of the Apostles while Jesus was with them.
  2. Having seen Jesus Christ. (**1 Corinthians 9:1**)
  3. Having done miracles in Jesus’ name, the 12 were sent out to heal, raise the dead, drive out demons – all of which Paul did.

- Future revelation determines that there were to be 12 Apostles:

**Revelation 21:14** “Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb.”

- The number of the Apostles is set, the issue is “who” are the 12.
- Paul is obviously the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle, which is not only bourn as the author of 2/3 of the New Testament, but Jesus did actually chose him.

**Acts 9:15** “... But the Lord said to him, go they way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.”

Bottom line: either Peter was wrong or Jesus was wrong, I’m going with Peter was wrong.

- (Not just because Matthias is never again mentioned in scripture, Matthew, Thomas, and several others are never mentioned again either.)

V: 6 Among whom you also are the called: They responded to the call.

**John 10:27** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:”

**1 Peter 2:9** “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- This is very inclusive: not limited to a special or specific group.

**John 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.”

**Revelation 22:17** “And the Spirit and the bride say, come! And let him who hears say, come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

- “The called” – appointed, divinely selected. – those who respond to that call.

V: 7 Paul is writing to the church, Jewish and Gentile believers, but at the same time God does love “all” that are in Rome, they are all “beloved” of God, God loved Nero, the non-believers, He sent the Gospel to Rome.

**2 Peter 3:9** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

- “*Beloved*” - (G27). agapetos; dearly, well beloved.
- “*to be*” are in italics – added in – should read “called saints”. So again Paul is writing specifically to the church, to the saints.

- Paul = “small” Rome = “strength” So you’ve got “Small” and by inference “weak” writing to big / Rome - “strong”...

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29** “<sup>26</sup>For ye see your calling, brethren, that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <sup>27</sup>But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup>And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: <sup>29</sup>That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

**“Saints”** (G40) “hagios” - Holy, set apart, sanctified, consecrated.

- 161 X’s – “holy”; 61 X’s – “saints”

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>Know ye not that ye are the temple o God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? <sup>17</sup>If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, (hagios) which temple ye are.”.

(I thought I married an angel, turns out she’s a saint!)

Salutation:

**“<sup>7b</sup>Grace<sup>1</sup> to you and peace<sup>2</sup> from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

↙ Charis                      ↘ Eirene

- God’s grace is both positional & practical:

**Romans 5:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- We have peace with God, which is positional and un-conditional.
- We also experience the peace of God. God’s peace in very practical ways:

Jesus said:

**Matthew 11:28-29** “<sup>28</sup>Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

**Philippians 4:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- The first 7 verses have been the opening salutation or greeting - “Dear Church in Rome...” Now we begin to get into the body or substance of the letter...

V: 8 “*First, I thank my God...*” (Personal)

- Paul is thankful for them and for their testimony, he is, as we are, encouraged by the faith of others.
- One of many good reasons not to let ourselves be isolated, to stay in fellowship, to stay in touch with the body of Christ.

**Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

**1 John 1:7** “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another...”

- Their testimony has spread far and wide; all roads lead from Rome to the rest of the world.

V: 9 God was his witness! As Paul spent time in private, in his prayer closet - who else would be a witness of what he prayed about?

[Remember what Jesus taught?](#)

**Matthew 6:6a** “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret...”

- Prayer without ceasing! Paul lived what he preached:

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** “Pray without ceasing.”

[Exhortation to prayer:](#)

**1 Samuel 12:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: <sup>24</sup>Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart...”

V: 10 Paul’s prayer, his desire is to visit with and to have fellowship with the church in Rome.

- As much as Paul desired to go to Rome, he waited on the Lord for a way and a time within His will, we wasn't going to force it.
- I don't ever want to push my will, I want my will to be conformed to His.

**Psalm 106:15** “And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”

- Paul didn't want to go to Rome to see the great Forum, the Colosseum, or the Circus Maximus as we'll study next week, his desire was to impart a spiritual gift and simply to have fellowship with his brothers and sisters.
- Paul had a desire that God had planted and would eventually bring to happen, Paul's heart, his desire was in conformity with that of His Lord.

**Matthew 6:10b** “... Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...” - “Thy will be done in my heart and in my life as it is in heaven!”

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V: 11-12 Paul longed to see them; bear in mind that Paul already knew several of the believers in the Roman church personally. At the end of this letter he asks for them by name.

**Romans 16:3** “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:”

- He goes on to name 20+ people that he wants greeted and encouraged, it's a pretty good list.

**Romans 16:7** “Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.”

- Paul isn't looking to get anything from them, his motivation is not greed or selfish ambition - he wants to give, he wants to impart to them a blessing.
- He hopes and intends to give to them what he has received from Jesus, and that is the Lord Himself, God's Word, a greater understanding of the True and living God.
- There are two types of relationship that a Christians can have with others.

1. Fellowship, koinonia. (kindred Spirit)
2. Missionary.

**Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.”

- Where our spirit bears witness to others.

**Romans 8:16** “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

- We have to have a different kind of relationship with believers as opposed to non-believers. With non-believers we have to be careful not to be deceived, or compromised, or to become in-effective - we need to be ministry minded and focused to share the love of Jesus with them.
- This also means that we need to be discerning as to who and what we are dealing with.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- Paul said, and it’s true, that we are comforted and encouraged when we’re around other like minded believers. We can have fellowship anywhere anytime with anyone who is truly born of the Spirit.
- Paul wants to impart a spiritual gift, that they would be established, or made strong in their faith.
- When speaking of “spiritual gifts” we may have been thinking about laying hands on them and the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, but I believe that Paul is thinking about what he would later write about:

**Romans 10:17** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

- He intended to give them a good dose of God’s Word knowing that it would increase or strengthen their faith.
- If you’re having struggles in your faith, or weak in faith, then increase your consumption of the Word of God - read it and believe it!

- This verse points out that there is the need in the life of every believer to be “established” to be rooted and grounded in God’s Word.

**1 Peter 2:2** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.”

- When a Christian is first saved they have their whole past life, their manner of living, their way of thinking, life’s habits to overcome. Learning to live that new life in Christ and the principals that flow from that.
- That is why there are so many exhortations to stand fast, to be rooted and grounded in God’s Word.
- It is the Word of God that can establish the Christian and give him the strength to overcome the old life, the old ways and to be that new creature in Christ Jesus.
- That spiritual milk of the Word, infused with the Spirit of God, giving life and strength to the Christian. You won’t find even one Christian on this earth who has developed into a mature Christian, who is a strong witness for the Lord who has done so apart from the Word of God.
- Those new believers who’ve had visions of Jesus in the Arab / Muslim countries of the middle east. Many of them started with a vision of Jesus, but in each instance, each testimony described them being drawn to the Word of God, being established by the Word of God, then empowered by the Holy Spirit to be that Godly witness, that martyr.
- That is the Spiritual gift that Paul wants to impart because it’s just the beginning.
- There is that need to be established; understand that it is the Word of God that will establish you, and that nothing but the Word of God can do that.

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them though thy Truth, Thy Word is Truth.”

- The word “sanctify” means “to make holy.” Jesus prayed to the Father “make them holy through Thy Truth, Thy Word is Truth.” Make them holy, establish them, strengthen them - through Thy Word.
- It’s no wonder that as Paul was in possession of God’s Word, possessed of this supernatural gift, that he desired to bring it as soon as possible to the Christians in Rome.
- In turn as the one like Paul who brings the Word of God to others, he is then strengthened by the faith of those who listen, so that the audience or congregation becomes the preachers pastor.

- It is a fascinating principal or aspect in ministry is that as we seek to give, to impart, to bless - we end up being the recipient of blessings.

V: 13 Paul wanted them to know that it's been his desire for a long time to do this, to be able to impart that gift, but that he had been hindered, held back until the timing was right, until it was God's perfect time.

- Paul desired to have fruit in both their lives and fruit in his life and in his ministry as he had already in many other Gentile cities. He didn't want them to feel slighted or neglected. Fruitfulness in accordance to John 15.

**John 15:1-2, 5** <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." - <sup>5</sup>"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."

V: 14 Paul is not using these terms in a derogatory way; when he speaks of the "Greeks & barbarians," he's talking about those who speak Greek, and those who don't.

- From the Greek perspective as they sought to understand those who didn't speak Greek, all the other foreign languages sounded like "bar-bar," an incomprehensible babbling, "bar-bar" being spoken by the Barbarians.
- This is ironic because of the modern phrase use when people talk to us about things we don't understand or can't comprehend we'll often say "well it's all Greek to me" meaning we're not able to understand it - it's all "bar-bar" to me...

V: 15 Paul is ready to preach the good news. We need to be as well.

**2 Timothy 4:2** "Preach the word! Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

V: 16 Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel, but why would that even be an issue?

1. The Gospel was identified with a poor Jewish carpenter who was crucified.

- The Romans had no special appreciation for the Jews, and crucifixion was the lowest form of execution given a criminal. Why put your faith in a Jew who was crucified?

2. Rome was a proud city, the capital of the world, "all roads lead to Rome, and the Gospel came from Jerusalem, the capital city of one of the little nations that Rome had conquered.



- The Christians in that day were not among the elite of society; they were at best just common people and more commonly just slaves.

3. Rome had known many great philosophers and philosophies; why pay any attention to a “fable” about a Jew who arose from the dead?

**1 Corinthians 1:18** “<sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

4. Christians looked on each other as brothers and sisters, all one in Christ, which went against the grain of Roman pride and dignity.

- To think of a little Jewish tentmaker, going to Rome to preach such a message, is almost kind of a silly notion.

5. But nonetheless Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel. He had confidence in his message, and he gives us his reasons that explain why he was not ashamed.

- Any message that came down from Caesar would immediately get the attention of the Romans. But the message of the Gospel is from and about the very Son of God! In his opening sentence, Paul called this message “*the Gospel of God*” (Rom. 1:1).

- How could Paul be ashamed of such a message, when it came from God and centered in His Son, Jesus Christ?

- And knowing that it is the power of God unto salvation which Paul has already seen so many times. His life was changed and he’s seen many other lives changed.

- Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel for two reasons:

1. <sup>16</sup>The Gospel reveals the power of God.
2. <sup>17</sup>The Gospel reveals the righteousness of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-21** “<sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup>For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

- Jesus Christ is God’s power of salvation - to whom? To everyone who believes.

**Galatians 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

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V: 17 The Gospel reveals the righteousness of God: It is through the Gospel that God maintains His righteousness and extends His grace and forgiveness to us.

- One of the questions that this letter seeks to answer is: how can mortal, sinful man be reconciled, justified before a Holy and righteous God?

**Genesis 17:1** “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be perfect / blameless.”

- A charge that no man could fulfill. Our God is merciful and forgiving – yet

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is still death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- In essence, God can't just wink & nod, and say that it's ok – letting us off the hook for our sins.
- To do so would negate His righteousness – call into question His righteousness.
- If however, God Himself were to pay the price for our sins, if we give Him our sins – and He gives us His righteousness.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Righteousness is satisfied, the debt is paid, the righteous requirements of the Law are fulfilled as He sacrificed Himself on our behalf.

**Romans 3:26** “To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

- By faith we are clothed in His righteousness.
- To add our works to the Gospel is to adulterate it, or profane it – it becomes a different Gospel, taking it from the grace of God to the religion of man.

**Galatians 1:8** “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

**Isaiah 64:6** “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- We cannot add to God’s righteousness, all we can do is profane it, tarnish it.

“... *from faith to faith*;...”

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him / God.”

- He is faithful, He calls us to faith, He gives us the faith – then it is from faith to faith.
- Ours is a faith walk that progresses from faith to faith as our faith in Him grows and builds from experience, and trials, and testings through life.

**James 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

“<sup>17c</sup>... *the just shall live by faith.*” (Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38)

**Habakkuk 2:4** “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”

- Romans explains “the just”; Galatians explains “shall live”; and Hebrews explains “by faith.”
- Is it the just shall live by the faith of the Son of God, or faith in the Son of God – **yes!**
- The just shall live by faith, the only way to be justified is through faith in Jesus Christ!

Like Abraham:

**Galatians 3:6** “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- Man’s righteousness before God isn’t predicated upon the Law of Moses, or the works of man, but it’s predicated upon believing in the completed work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

**John 11:25-26** “<sup>25</sup>Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: <sup>26</sup>And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?”

V: 16 emphasizes the power of God.  
V: 17 emphasizes the righteousness of God.  
V: 18 Emphasizes the wrath of God.

V: 18 The righteousness of God is also revealed in His wrath; God would not be able to maintain His righteousness without His dealing with the sinful and rebellious.

- Options: the grace of God, or the wrath of God.

Wrath: punishment, anger, indignation.

**Hebrews 9:27** “It is appointed unto man once to die, then the judgment.”

- There is a consequence to sin – God’s judgment.
- God judged the world in the flood, He’s judged nations & cities, He’s judged people – Korah’s rebellion etc.
- There is another world wide judgment coming, prophesied.

**Revelation 1, 2-3, 4-5**, the wrath of God is poured out in Ch. 6 – judgment is in Ch. 20:11 – Great White Throne Judgment.

- Our sins are either judged on the cross of Jesus, or we are left to atone for our own sins.

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- The Mosaic Law was written on two tables of stone. The first tablet dealt with man’s relationship with God; the second dealing with man’s relationship with man.
  - A man is **un-godly** when he isn’t right with God; he is **un-righteous** when he isn’t right with his fellow man as God desires him to be.
  - You can’t be right with man unless you are already right with God, one is dependent on the other.
  - Our relationship with God is the vertical axis of our lives, if it is right / plumb then the rest of the relationships in our lives which exist on the horizontal plane will be “square.”
  - If the vertical axis is off in some way, that effects every other relationship in a negative way.

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- The wrath of God is to be revealed against the ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men, thus the two tablets are tied together.
- You cannot have a right relationship with God and at the same time have a wrong relationship with your brother. If you say that you love God, then you have to love your brother also; you can't love God and hate your brother.

**1 John 3:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. <sup>15</sup>Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

### ***Holding the truth in unrighteousness:***

- Not that they don't know, but that they hold (present tense) the truth of God in unrighteousness. They are bad stewards of the treasure they've been given.

Parable of the talents:

**Matthew 25:30** “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- The word “hold” is also translated as “hold back” or “suppress,” they hold back and or suppressed the truth.
- Men know the truth about God, but they do not allow this truth to work in their lives. They suppress it in order that they might live their own lives and not be convicted by God's truth.
- Some hold or have the truth of God, but they hold it in un-righteousness.
- They say they believe in God - good place to start, but the demons believe in God.

**James 2:19** “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

- The difference needs to be that not only do we believe in God, but we are also to glorify Him and to bear good fruit in His name.
- Otherwise we too hold the truth of God in un-righteousness.
- The writer of Hebrews addresses those who knew the truth, those who held or withheld it, willfully ignored it.

**Hebrews 10:26-29** “<sup>26</sup>For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>but a certain

fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. <sup>28</sup>He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: <sup>29</sup>Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith He was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

V: 19-20 No man has an excuse for not believing in God who has been revealed by all of creation. The fact that there is a design obviously points to the fact there is a designer.

- Human history began with man knowing God. Human history is not the story of a beast that worshipped idols, and then evolved into a man worshiping one God.
- Human history is just the opposite: man began by knowing God, but then turned from the truth, and rejected God.
- When men reject the truth, all that is left is the lies of men and devils.
- God revealed Himself to man through creation, the things that He made. From the world around him, man knew that there was a God who had the wisdom to plan and the power to create. This is all "manifest" plainly seen, it's obvious, unless of course you suppress it.

**Psalm 50:17** "Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee."

- God's character and attributes are manifest in all of creation.

**Colossians 1:16-17** "<sup>16</sup>For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>And He is before all things, and in Him / by Him all things consist."

**Psalm 19:1** "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

- Order & balance in the universe

**Psalm 139:14** "I will praise you; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Your works; and that my soul knows very well."

- Human body, self sustaining, self healing, self re-producing – technologically advanced.

**Job 12:7-12** "<sup>7</sup>But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; <sup>8</sup>Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish

of the sea will explain to you. <sup>9</sup>Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, <sup>10</sup>In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”

- Ant brain / fly – landing upside down on the ceiling.
- Attributes of God
- Isaac Watts – poem

*“So that they are without excuse.”*

V: 21 Men knew God, they knew God from either the OT Jewish perspective, through His power and miracles, or from the creation of all things.

- They knew Him, but they didn't want to know Him. Like a petulant child that doesn't want to say “thank you” or “please.”
- They were un-thankful - no appreciation for what God has done in their lives:

**Isaiah 1:2-3** <sup>2</sup>Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me. <sup>3</sup>The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.”

- Atheist, evolutionist, humanistic - not acknowledging or thanking God for His blessings in their lives.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

- Their foolish heart being darkened as opposed to being illuminated.
- Their foolish hearts were darkened: Rejecting wisdom and truth they are given over to foolishness and lies, given over to their depraved desires.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:23** “But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

- Rejecting God, refusing to acknowledge God leaves them in a sense without a god. Man is hard wired and designed to worship something. If he won't worship the True and Living God then he will worship the false gods of this world.
- The number one false god of this world is man himself, which fulfills Satan's purposes as described in the garden:

**Genesis 3:5** “... ye shall be as gods,...”

- Instead of looking up to the True and Living God, man looks at something that he himself has created, which is beneath him, eventually descending further and further to animals, and bugs.
- If man is his own god, then he not accountable to anyone but himself and he can do whatever he wants, he can fulfill his own desires without concern for accountability, nor fear of judgment.

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V: 22 As such they became fools...

**Psalm 14:1** “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.”

**Proverbs 14:12** “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

**1 Corinthians 3:19** “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...”

- Caesar Nero: Caesar worship, rejected Gospel from Paul, began 1<sup>st</sup> Roman persecution of Christians.

**Proverbs 3:5-7** “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. <sup>7</sup>Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

V: 23 When men refuse to worship God, it seems that they will worship just about everything else.

- While Moses was receiving the 10 commandments (graven images), the people were down the mountain building and worshipping a golden calf. We’ve since moved onto owls, rats, and red legged tree frogs.
- It’s against the law to kill an eagle, or a wolf, or a spotted owl. Entire communities are impacted by types of fish as they re-arrange water rights and distribution to accommodate the sacrament river smelt.
- But the same people are totally okay with the murder of innocent children for the sake of the sexual conveniences - animals are given greater value than human beings!

**Psalm 115:4-8** “<sup>4</sup>Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. <sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: <sup>6</sup>They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: <sup>7</sup>They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through



their throat. <sup>8</sup>They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

- We tend to become like that which we worship, for better or for worse.

**Romans 8:29** “For whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son...”

**2 Corinthians 3:18** “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

V: 24 Now we come to the first “giving up” by God: (V: 26, 28)

**Psalm 81:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>But My people would not hearken to My voice; and Israel would none of Me. <sup>12</sup>So I gave them up unto their own hearts’ lust: and they walked in their own counsels.”

**Acts 7:42-43** “<sup>42</sup>Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? <sup>43</sup>Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Molech, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.”

**Psalm 106:15** “And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”

- They got what they wanted, they did what they wanted but it just drove them farther and farther away from God.

**Proverbs 14:12** “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

- God gives them over to “dishonour” their own bodies, to treat their bodies with indignity, to abuse, to despise - not care for their own bodies. Doing things which are bad or detrimental for the health and wellbeing of the body - Paul will elaborate upon these things in the next few verses.

V: 25 Exchanging the truth of God for lies: when you reject the truth, all that is left is lies.

**Isaiah 5:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! <sup>21</sup>Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”

- Man has to live with himself, so he rationalizes his sinful deeds in order to ease his conscience. But in order to do that, he has to change God and change his Word.
- Oh, the Bible really isn't inspired, it was just written by men, it's not truly the "Word of God".
- Changing the truth of God into a lie: best example is Genesis the creation account. The truth is that God created all things, and that in particular God created man in His own image.
- Man has sought to change or exchange the truth of God for the lies of evolutionary theories, the big bang, aliens - anything but God.
- Man has sought to deny or circumvent God's truth, His warning that sin leads to death; the world has sought to deny that saying that it leads to enlightenment and pleasure, there are no consequences to sin, do what you want.

**Genesis 3:4** "... *ye shall not surely die:*"

- The Bible tells us that there is One God manifest in three persons; the world and the enemy says:

**Genesis 3:5** "... *ye shall be as gods...*"

- The Bible declares that we are special and unique in all of creation because we are created in the very image of God.
- The world tells us that we just another animal, no different from any other part of the natural world - in fact we're the problem, too many people.
- Owls, mice, and tree's have more legal protection than a human being in our country – because we value them more than people.

**Proverbs 19:3** "*The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord.*"

V: 26 This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> "*giving up.*"

- "vile affections" - disgraceful, shameful, improper, unseemly.
- The natural use of the woman being exchanged for the "un-natural" use of the woman, or that which is against nature.
- The natural use of the woman refers to sexual intercourse that results in a child being conceived.

- The un-natural use of the woman refers to anal intercourse or sodomy which is against nature.
- It appears that the practice of sodomy is condemned in the Bible.

**1 Corinthians 6:9** “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (homosexuals), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomites).... shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.”

V: 27 “*Likewise*” or in a similar manner, men who have give up or left the natural use of the woman, normal sexual relations, “<sup>26</sup>Given up to “vile affections” men have turned to homosexuality: sexual relationships with other men.

- Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire – Gibbons.
- 14 or the last 15 Roman Emperors were homosexual.
- These men appointed homosexual generals and leaders.
- Eventually the most feared military machine the world had ever seen no longer had the will to fight.
- Our military once benefitted from this lesson, but no longer.
- When a culture / society / nation descends to the low point of homosexuality – the end is always near.

**Leviticus 18:22** “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”

**Leviticus 20:13** “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

**Deuteronomy 23:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Thou shalt not bring the hire or a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

- Homosexuality, or any sin for that matter isn't bad because it's forbidden, it's forbidden because it's bad for us.

- It's forbidden because it is bad and it will destroy us individually and corporately - "the wages of sin is death."
- Nurse study (need to locate) examining gay obituaries:
  - Domestic violence 500% more likely.
  - Average gay male life expectancy 42yrs. as opposed to 74 years for heterosexual.
  - Average gay man involved in 100 + physical relationships.
  - 28% involved in 1000+
  - Various diseases +++
  - Mayhem
  - 902/901-T's all increased.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** <sup>9</sup>"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (homosexuals), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomites), <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (Reversible)<sup>11</sup>And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

**Revelation 22:15** "For without are dogs / homosexuals, and sorcerers, and whoremongers / sexually immoral, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

V: 28 Reprobate mind, NKJV debased mind; "depraved mind" NIV / NASB.vA reprobate mind, or a debased or depraved mind in the mind that is void of God and the understanding of God.

- A reprobate, debased, or depraved mind: this is a mind that cannot form right judgments.

**Proverbs 3:7-8** <sup>7</sup>"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup>It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

- "God gives them up" 3 X's, lastly here in verse 28; 24, 26, 28

**For 3 reasons:** changed the glory of God; changed the truth of God; did not retain God.

**To 3 judgments:** to uncleanness; to vile passions; to a debased mind.

**Proverbs 1:7** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

V: 29-31 Having been given over to these things, they just go deeper in every bad direction.

- Un-righteousness: (defined) That which isn't right or just. The fruit of a depraved mind.
  1. Fornication / Sexual immorality (Greek word: "pornea")
  2. Wickedness: evil, malicious, depraved.
  3. Covetousness / greed, fraud.
  4. Maliciousness,
  5. Envy.
  6. Murder.
  7. Debate / strife.
  8. Deceit - dishonest
  9. Malignity: extreme enmity, or evil dispositions of heart towards another without provocation. Extreme sinfulness, also translated "treachery."
  10. Whisperers, gossips.
  11. <sup>30</sup>Back biters, complainers, murmurers.
  12. Hater's of God - violent.
  13. Despiteful.
  14. Proud.
  15. Boasters.
  16. Inventors of evil things.
  17. Disobedient to parents.

V: 31 (continues)

18. Without understanding - ignorant.
  19. Covenant breakers - untrustworthy.
  20. Without natural affection - loveless.
- "Without natural affection", speaking of the love of a parent, the bond between parent and child which is one of the strongest in nature. (**2 Tim. 3:1-5**)

**Psalm 106: 37-38** "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood."

21. Implacable - unforgiving.
22. Unmerciful.

- This extensive listing is the same as the fruit of the flesh as it's described in **Ephesians 5:19-21**.

V: 32 Knowing, having been made aware of the truth and rejecting it. Those who do these things, those whose lives are characterized by the things on this list, they are deserving of death.

**Proverbs 8:13** “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

“... *have pleasure in them..*” speak of those who approve, affirm, or assent to these things.

**Isaiah 33:15-17** “<sup>15</sup>He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: <sup>16</sup>he will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure. <sup>17</sup>Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is very far off.”

**Habakkuk 1:13** “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look upon iniquity:...”

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. <sup>18</sup>I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Affirming: We will reap what we sow!

**Galatians 6:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

**Psalms 1:1** “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup>But his delight...”

- Man began by glorifying God but ended exchanging the glory for idols.

- He began by knowing God but ended refusing to keep the knowledge of God in his mind and heart.
- Man started out as the highest of God's creatures, made in the image of God; but he ended lower than the beasts and insects, because he worshiped them as his gods.
- The verdict? <sup>20</sup>"They are without excuse!"