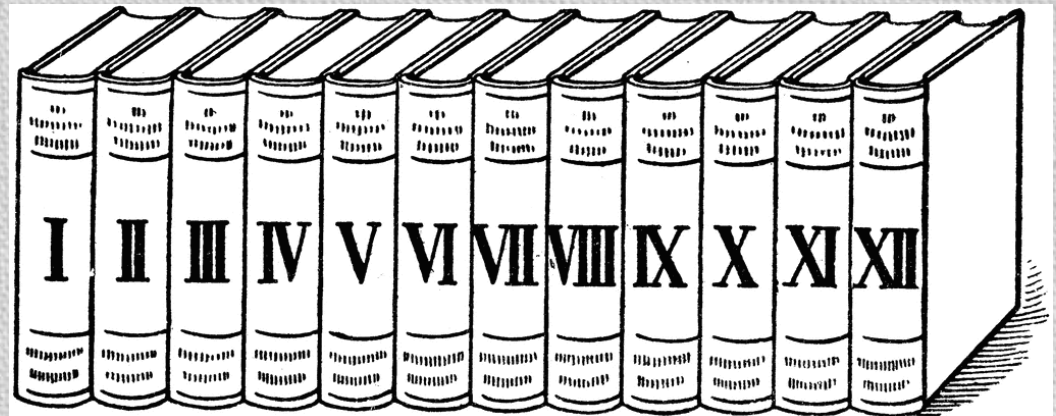


BOOK OF ROMANS

Chapter One



Righteousness of God

Romans 1:17: For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

- The Righteousness of God is His means of saving sinners – A man's righteousness is obtained by his faith in the gospel of Christ
- Abraham was justified by his faith in the Integrity and Power of God's Word
- ***Abraham, the father and founder of the Jewish people, was justified by faith, before even the law was given; and by believing, he and all his believing descendants have been justified***

THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

- **Justification**, in Christian theology, is God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while at the same time declaring a sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. In Protestantism, righteousness from God is viewed as being credited to the sinner's account through faith alone, without works (Wikipedia).
- **Just as if I never sinned** - It's amazing how we seek a "Clean Slate" with God, especially in our present culture of non-accountability, but think little of developing a slate outlining our service to The Lord
- **Justification is like Righteousness** – It's not about being justified from all your sins, where you assume no responsibility, but to be made clean and fit to serve the Father
- Abraham was justified by faith not only because he "believed" but because he was willing to sacrifice on the basis of that belief. - Faith without works is dead (**Romans 4:17-21; James 2:21-24**). **Abraham was declared righteous because of his righteous act stemming from his faith**

How This Works

God establishes a Covenant with Man that one day He would Redeem them back to Himself



Jesus fulfills Scripture and accomplishes Man's Redemption through the Cross

Man receives the gospel of Christ by faith and is Saved and made Righteous and Justified to Serve



As a Believer, man becomes a disciple and commits himself in Service to the Lord

**This Seems Simple, So
Why is this So Hard?**

Wrath of God Revealed (Not Hidden)

From the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness

Definition of Terms

- **Ungodliness** refers to man's offenses against God; "impiety" toward God, or neglect of the worship and honor due to him.
- **Unrighteousness of Men** - Iniquity towards people; all offenses against our neighbor, parents
- Violates God's of loving Him and thy neighbor (**Matt 22:37-40**)
- **Who suppress the truth in unrighteousness:** Mankind does in fact suppress the truth of God. Every truth revealed to man by God has been fought against, disregarded, and deliberately obscured.

Wrath of God Revealed (Cont'd)

- **Wrath of God** - The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. (**John 3:36; Ephesians 5:6**)
- Wrath represents the displeasure of God (**Romans 2:5**) reflected in God's Punishment or God's divine judgment against sin which endures as long as one's unbelief and disobedience remains
- Both humans and God express wrath. But there is vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man. God's wrath is holy and always justified; man's is never holy and rarely justified.

Examples of God's Wrath

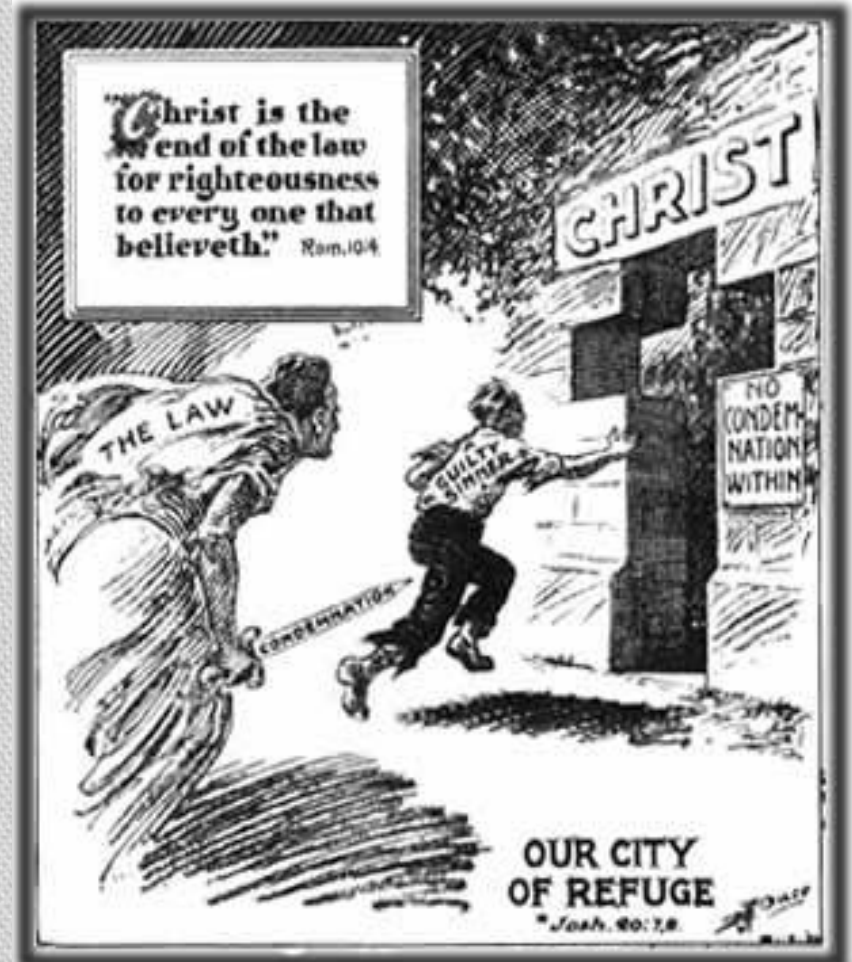
- During Old Testament times God's wrath was openly displayed against evil-doers,
 - During the Flood;
 - In the destruction of Sodom and Gormorrah with fire and brimstone from heaven; on
 - The Egyptians and their haughty king, when He visited their land with plagues, slew their first born and destroyed their armies at the Red Sea;
 - God's dealings with the Nation of Israel, in selling them into the hands of their enemies, sending them into captivity and destroying their beloved city.
 - God's final wrath will be demonstrated towards those who have rejected Christ

Wrath of God

- The Wrath of God is not an obscured or hidden thought or act. God hates sin and sin displeases Him.
- The Wrath of God is just – “I will punish you as your deeds deserve,” (Jeremiah 21:14)
- God’s wrath should not be absent nor out of place in our theology nor our evangelism, but it should have its proper place
- God's wrath, in this final sense, is not aimed to improve and make holy, but to destroy and eternally judge. God disciplines those He loves, for the good (1 Pet 4:17-19). True followers of Christ need have no fear of God's wrath. It is being "stored up", and is about to be directed toward those who reject God's revelation of Himself.
- Proverbs 20:9 says "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin'?"

Freedom From Wrath – Blood of Christ

- *Wrath* is defined as “the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice,” often translated as “anger,” “indignation,” “vexation,” or “irritation.”
- Both humans and God express wrath. But there is vast difference between the wrath of God and the wrath of man. God’s wrath is holy and always justified; man’s is never holy and rarely justified.
- The Law provided some coverage from the Wrath of God until Christ fulfilled the Law and atoned for man’s sins



Reprobate Mind

Romans 1:28: And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient

Titus 1:16 - They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

- **Reprobate: Not standing the Test; Castaway; Rejected**
 - As believers, we are to have the “Mind of Christ”
 - The mind is defined as having the faculty of perceiving divine things; recognizing goodness and hating evil; the ability to consider and judge things soberly, calmly and impartially
 - A reprobate mind loses this ability and becomes futile or empty in thinking, callous in feeling, and disconnected spiritually from the Father, God
 - The reprobate mind becomes void in judgment and character that God must reject it

Can a Christian Have a Reprobate Mind?

- **Christians' minds should be renewed daily**
 - To be carnally minded is death – the carnal mind is against God
- **The Carnal Mind is a Mindset: Romans 8:7**
 - It does not suppose that the mind or soul is physically depraved, or opposed to God; but it means that the minding of the things of the flesh, giving to them supreme attention
 - Because it is in opposition against God, it can lead to woe and even death (Separation from God)
 - Because the carnal mind relishes earthly and sinful things, and lives in opposition to the pure and holy law of God, this person cannot please God

Scriptures

- 1st Corinthians 3:1: And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, even as unto babes in Christ
- Ephesians 4:23: And be **renewed** in the spirit of your mind;
 - Our minds should be renovated through the Word of God
 - Renovated by casting down imaginations (1st Cor 10:4)
 - Carnality and Rejection is an act of man's will
 - Choice is exercised and Consequences will follow

How Do I Know if a Person Has a Reprobate Mind?

- Sin darkens the mind and hinders the spirit of man
- A Reprobate Mind does not glorify God nor worship God
- They do not honor God by conducting themselves according to what they knew of Him and what He required of them (Micah 6:8)
- They failed to put their knowledge into action, and instead, let their imaginations run wild and began worshipping things apart from what God had revealed of Himself.
- Vanity in thought and imaginations (Ephesians 4:18) – self-conceited, or to seek praise from others (Romans 1: 23,24)
- **Nor were thankful:** Reprobate people do not thank God for anything

Understanding Darkened

Ephesians 4:17-20: So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; **19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for [fn] the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.
20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

- The fact is once a man rejects the truth of God in Jesus, he will fall for anything foolish, and trust far more feeble and fanciful systems that what he rejects from God (Guzik)
- **Futility of the Mind:** The thought is not that unregenerate minds are empty. It is that they are filled with things that lead to nothing.” (Vaughan)
- Alienated from the Life of God – Not living the life that God lives and desires for us to live (We were made in the image and likeness of God to look like him and operate in this world as He would)

Hardness of Heart

- People may harden their heart due to sin, rebellion, bitterness over circumstances,
- Hardness of heart is an act of the will
- Hardness of heart can inhibit you from seeing the hand of God and hearing the voice of God (Mark 8:17-21; Hebrews 3:8, 15)
- Hardness of God may invoke the wrath of God (Hebrews 3:15)
- Hardness of Heart brings about spiritual blindness and loss of sensitivity to the Spirit of God

Other Aspects of a Reprobate Mind

- Willing to reject God's truth to accommodate a lie that meets their intentions
- **Idolatry**
- **Immoral passions:** i.e. homosexuality, bestiality, impure sexual acts outside of human terms and dignity
- **Wickedness** (26-28) – desiring the injuring of others
- **Covetousness** – Greed; gratification of the senses; desirous of luxury
- **Carnal and Fleshly thoughts:** Envy, strife, murder, deceit, gossip (vs.29)
- **Rebellious mindset:** Haters of God; arrogant, boastful; disobedient to parents (vs. 30)
- **Poor moral character:** Untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful, and without understanding (vs.31)
- **Participate or entertain habitual sins** (vs. 32)

Gave Them Over -

- God gives man up to the sin our evil hearts desire, allowing us to experience the self-destructive result of sin.
- When God gives someone over to their choices and rejection of the truth, then whatever spirits, circumstances, mindset, losses or failings associated with that choice are free to operate in that person's life
- Receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due: Disease, Judgment, spiritual emptiness (high suicide rate, i.e.)
- God doesn't approve the sin because of man's weakness, nor does He overlooks it. He just allows the consequences to take place and one day He will judge it

Vanity of the Mind? The Solution is Christ

Romans 1:23, 24: Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts and creeping things.

- Man is prone to idolatry because he wants a god on his level

1 Corinthians 2:16 - For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

- Our minds should be influenced by the Spirit and not the World
- This means our views, desires, temperament, feelings

Prayer

Lord, I accept Your Word and believe it wholeheartedly. Lord, I thank You that by faith and submission of will to Your precepts that my mind is released from the grip of:

- Pride, Vanity, Arrogance, and Self-Importance
- Carnal imaginations, Wicked Imaginations,
- Deception, Confusion, Mind Blankness, Incoherence and Ignorance
- Fear, Greed, Envy, Depression
- Bitterness, Violence, Turmoil
- Condemnation and Depression

I purpose in my heart and in my mind not to walk in rebellion and to keep my mind, “stayed on thee.” I thank you for a sound mind, the mind of Christ, peace of mind, a sober mind, and a redeemed mind.

Now Father, I rejoice greatly in my relationship with You and am grateful that You have revealed Your Word and Purpose to me and to all mankind.

Amen