

Romans: The Gospel

Without Excuse

Romans 1:18-23

<p>Last Week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gospel (Good News) • God's Good News "Godspell" • Written by Paul to church in Rome, AD 53-58 • Romans: Bad news then Good News, Faith over Flesh • How to be saved? From what? 	<p>Romans 10:8-9 - But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.</p>
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God's desire is that we all would be saved.

You. Your family. Your friends. Even your enemy.

Walking with Jake, automatic barn lights

Genesis 1:1, 14-15 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ... Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

Aurora, constellations, it's a clock, a calender!

A watch in a field

Psalm 19:1-[11] - The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ...

[Pray]

:18

<p>What is the <u>wrath</u> of God? anger, agitation of the soul, indignation, "Anger exhibited in punishment, the punishment <u>itself</u>"</p> <p>God being angry with us is, in a sense, <u>judgment enough</u></p>	<p>We think of God's judgment being active, and it is, but it has <u>stages</u></p> <p>"Slow to anger" "Be angry and do not sin" Because it's about relationship - a relationship broken by sin</p>
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<p>It's possible for God to be angry and not to sin. (we struggle)</p> <p><i>Jealous God, misinterpreted through our inability to be holy and jealous</i></p> <p>We like to think God can't be angry because we don't know how to do it right</p>	<p>God's judgment comes in phases.</p> <p><u>All throughout the OT with Israel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Silence - will we notice? • His Presence gone - will we miss it? • Things begin to fall apart - will we realize why?
<p>Why it's so important to step back and consider when...</p> <p>It doesn't mean he's angry, he's left, or we've sinned - <u>but we should rule that out first.</u></p> <p>If our relationship with God breaks down - it's not on His end.</p>	<p>God will judge. He is judge.</p> <p>"God" = judge Person <u>and</u> title.</p> <p>But He is also love. Merciful and gracious. Gives many undeserved chances.</p> <p><i>Warnings before war</i></p>
<p>Revealed - apocalypso - uncover, unveil, disclose</p> <p><i>We want the government to release information, and when they do it's heavily redacted</i></p> <p>Not so with God. His case and cause is clear and just.</p>	<p>Apocalypse - End times - we relate apocalypse with <u>judgment</u> only -</p> <p>it's God's righteousness revealed - in judgment. (Revelation) not just an unbelieving world, but a world <u>hostile</u> to God.</p> <p><i>First like a Lamb, then like a Lion</i></p>
<p>Where does it come from? Heaven</p> <p>God's perspective is very different from ours.</p> <p><u>He has all the information.</u> (Is. 55:9)</p> <p>He's got the high ground. He sees the end from the beginning. He sees our motives and hearts.</p>	<p>What kindles God's anger? (He isn't angered easily...and if anyone's anger is just it's God's)</p> <p>Ungodliness (want of reverence towards God) disrespect for even the office (us vs. God)</p> <p>Unrighteousness (injustice of a judge, of heart and life, violating law) of MEN (us vs us)</p>

Genesis 6:5-8 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was **sorry (repented, regretted, pity, compassion)** that He had made man on the earth, and He was **grieved (hurt, displeased, pained, grieved)** in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Remember S&G?

God checked in on the reports on them HIMSELF before raining fire

Ecclesiastes 7:29 - Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes [inventions]."

<p>Who's at fault? God or us? We are.</p> <p>We like to blame anyone but ourselves. We even like to blame God</p> <p>We try to judge Him!</p>	<p>But He took our blame on Himself. On His Son. At the cross.</p> <p>Rather than judge us, He judged His son. If we would receive it.</p>
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<p>Judge us for what?</p> <p>10 Commandments broken one, broken them all (even remember? Them all) A thief steals because he's a thief in heart</p> <p>God knows we can't keep them it's why He sent Jesus.</p> <p>He wants to be our righteousness - but what's left for us if we refuse it?</p>	<p>What's the first act (maybe continual behavior) of unrighteousness?</p> <p>Suppressing the truth. WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.</p> <p>Smothering it out with the pillow of wicked thoughts, wicked living</p> <p>Is it no wonder the world promotes these things? Shows? Movies? Education? <i>"Fought against, deliberately obscured" DG</i></p>
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<p>What may be known of God Everything God wants us to know. If we can know it in this world. He's made it available. In this world.</p>	<p>Revelation - reveals Jesus completely. Reveals the future of this world The future of heaven And the judgment of hell</p>
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<p>...is manifest IN THEM Apparent, evident, known, <u>plainly recognized</u></p> <p>You don't need to teach people to believe in God, they're taught <i>not</i> to</p>	<p>Clearly shown us - by God himself!</p> <p>We weren't left to figure it out for ourselves. God was in the garden. And God is at work in everyone's lives.</p>
<p>John 16:8-11 - "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.</p>	
<p>Judgment and hell weren't created for us - God gave us every means of warning and escape</p> <p>Hell was designed for the enemy.</p>	<p>When we go out and share. When people see our lives. When people see creation. God is ministering to them. Trying to get their attention. We get to be the physical presence of what God's already doing.</p>

<p>Science (with knowledge) the evidence is there, Not tacking the Bible onto it, it's the other way around. Clearly seen. Intrinsic.</p>	<p>It's all meant to lead us to God <i>Hiking in NY, walking in NYC (emptiness still pointed)</i></p> <p>Do we believe what it leads us to or not?</p>
<p>When people honestly seek the truth - in science, in philosophy, in religion - they always end up at Jesus. If they're not at Jesus, they haven't thought it all the way through yet.</p> <p>That's where we come in. To help them think it through. Help them see what they're already seeing but have been blinded to by sin.</p>	<p>It's clear.</p> <p>There is a God. God <u>himself</u> has revealed it. (If he wanted to be hidden he would be, but He's not). Built the entire story, his fingerprint, his autograph, his very image and nature into the universe itself..</p> <p>Biology is clear. Archaeology. Geology. Astronomy.</p>

40DFL event conversations - the mental gymnastics catching herself "life"

:20

<p>How long ago was it revealed? The beginning. "Always has been revealed"</p>	<p>So why does it seem hidden? Sin.</p>
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<p>I can't see God? He's invisible! True, He is. But he made himself visible by the things He made. People literally in His image.</p> <p>Wind in the trees. You can't see the wind - but you see it's effects!</p> <p><i>Not to mention Jesus</i></p>	<p>"seen me" John 14:9 "visible image" Col 1:15 <u>understood</u></p> <p>Yes, even the advanced thoughts. Theology.</p> <p>Godhead - fancy word for divinity. He's God. There can be only one. Marriage</p>
<p>Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 - I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.</p>	<p>Eternity in our hearts. It's why this life doesn't satisfy. Vanity. We're not designed to know death. We're meant to be alive.</p> <p>God has done so much we could never learn about it all.</p> <p><i>IBM powers of 10</i></p>
<p>This world is the ethereal, less real, mirror dimly, shadow of things to come Heaven is the more-real, more tangible place</p>	
<p>Not we can't handle the truth... We don't want the truth.</p> <p>We understood it. We don't like it.</p> <p>There's one way to live life that maintains life or there's a way to live life that doesn't.</p> <p>A or B. Black and white. God made life. Life God's way or death's way.</p>	<p>We want it our OWN way. We want to be like God. The lie is that we can w/o Him!</p> <p>in order to keep living our own way, we have to start ignoring God and God's way.</p> <p>Suppressing the truth in our unrighteousness</p> <p>Despite everything around us proving Him right and us wrong.</p>
<p>Without excuse. Without defense.</p>	<p>We have nothing we can say, in God's court, that says God didn't give us every chance in the book. Personally & evidentially.</p>

<p>Why has God revealed Himself? Because He wants a relationship with us.</p> <p>Relationships require both parties to be interested.</p> <p>It's not an intellectual exercise. You don't have to be smart to see the evidence. It's a heart issue.</p>	<p>People say God prove yourself!</p> <p>(He's gracious to)</p> <p>He already did. Creation. The cross.</p> <p>It's your turn. Believe the obvious truth or reject it, suppress it in unrighteousness.</p>
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:21

<p><u>They knew God...</u> So who left the relationship? WE did.</p> <p>1 John 2:3-4 - Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.</p>	<p>1 John 4:7-8, 12, 20 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ... No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ... If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?</p>
<p>How does our relationship with God break down? By not letting Him be God in our minds. Hearts. lives.</p> <p>By not glorifying Him. <u>Glory is His.</u></p> <p>Psalm 29:2a - Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;</p>	<p>First Commandment: No god's before Him</p> <p>Only one being can be God (office) that's God (YHWH)</p> <p>He is unequalled, Unparalleled. Unmatched.</p>
<p>Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.</p> <p>Colossians 1:17 - And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.</p> <p><u>Every atom. molecule. galaxy. hair on your head</u></p>	<p>2 Peter 3:5-7 - For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.</p>

<p>Reservation for two, for fire?</p> <p>Entropy - state of order to chaos, heat loss</p> <p>“The great heat death of the universe”</p> <p>It’s us who grow cold. It’s us who leak and grow weak.</p> <p>We need a constant refill of the Lord. Constant feeding.</p>	<p>Why? He is life!</p> <p>If we want to stay alive we must eat from the tree of life.</p> <p>There’s only two options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of life • Tree of knowledge of good and evil (knowing death)
<p>1 - Didn’t glorify Him as God</p> <p>2 - Nor were thankful</p> <p>Being thankful is a big deal! Not just at thanksgiving</p>	<p>Attitude of gratitude Or just attitude (of entitlement)</p> <p>It really changes our hearts - we stop being thankful and start being entitled when we think less of God and more of ourselves</p>
<p>What’s the result of this? Not enlightenment! (same lie in garden)</p> <p>The modern world has said enlightenment comes from less God Get God out of everything!</p>	<p>Matthew 6:22-23 - "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. <u>If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!</u></p>
<p>But if we turn out the lights, what is left? Darkness.</p> <p>The only result of denying God as God is “Vain in imagination”</p>	<p>Ecclesiastes - <u>all</u> is vanity Empty, vain, foolish</p> <p>Thinking with yourself, arguing, deliberating, questioning what is true Pilate - what is truth?</p>
<p>The Lie of Relativity</p> <p><i>We’ve claimed to be searching for truth but we’ve left the only truth there is and so we’ve decided that there is no such thing as truth and your truth is your truth and mine is mine and it’s all relative.</i></p>	<p>FALSE. LIE. FUTILE. VAIN <u>IMAGINATION.</u></p> <p>They imagine a universe without God.</p>

:22-23

<p>Best part - professing to be wise! Became fools! <i>I'm so SMART. SMRT.</i></p> <p>What did they do? Took the glory of God and whoops,</p> <p>#2 You shall not make an idol of anything in heaven or earth</p> <p>(pretty dumb)</p>	<p>Made God in our image. And even lesser than our image - animals.</p> <p>Humanism I get to some degree, humans at the top of the food chain. People can be pretty good looking.</p> <p>But worshipping frogs? Trees? Rocks? Monkeys?</p> <p><i>No, your grandpa was not a monkey. Things are getting worse, not better.</i></p>
<p>Idols of the world. Some looked cool (Egypt) or were interesting (Rome/Greece). But a lot look pretty demonic. Separate study. We prefer gods in our image.</p> <p>Homework Is. 44:9-20</p> <p>Idols in our day - how can we tell? Just look at what we sacrifice and what we sacrifice for...that'll tell you what we worship. And we turn into it's image.</p> <p>Psalm 115:4-8 - Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.</p> <p>Psalm 115:3 - But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.</p>	<p><u>God wants you to know Him.</u></p> <p>He's revealed Himself in every way imaginable.</p> <p>That's the Gospel. The Good News.</p> <p><u>The ball is in your court.</u></p> <p>Will you simply believe? Or keep making up stories and reasons not to believe?</p> <p>It's us who don't want God. Not Him who doesn't want us.</p> <p>Let it not be so.</p> <p>The result of pushing God away next time...showing His abandonment, wrath and judgment to be just</p>