

## Romans Part 2 (1:15- 2:16 )

--1:16: Paul introduces the general subject of His epistle to the Romans: "the gospel of Christ"

--Paul's explanation of the gospel in the book of Romans can be divided into following main sections and themes:

<i>saved from the wrath of God against sin... to reflect the glory of God in sanctification</i>					
<b>prologue</b> (1:1-1:15)	<b>SIN</b> (1:18-3:20)	<b>SALVATION</b> (3:21-5:21)	<b>SANCTIFICATION</b> (6:1-8:39)	<b>SERVICE</b> (12:1-15:13)	<b>epilogue</b> (15:14-16:27)
	undergirded by <b>God's SOVEREIGNTY</b> (9:1-11:36)				

--the central themes of Paul's explanation of the gospel can be traced back to the overview of the gospel that Jesus gave right before He returned to heaven: (We emphasized this passage during last series to show that the apostles simply relayed the message of Christ, unlike many false teachers who add esoteric doctrine and depart from the message of Christ.)

--Luke 24:46-49: "Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,  
*[this speaks of the **SOVEREIGNTY** of God, Christ was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20) to die for our sins, thus He fulfilled over 300 prophecies]*  
 and that repentance  
*[turning away from **SIN**]*  
 and remission of sins  
*[**SALVATION** from consequence of sin]*  
 should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."  
*[**SANCTIFICATION** / **SERVICE** (overcoming sin) through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit]*

--1:17: After introducing the gospel, Paul highlights the foundation of the gospel: "the righteousness of God... from faith to faith..."

--the righteousness of God that is credited to our account through faith is what turns away the wrath of God

--Romans 3:21-24: "But now **the righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, **through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

--in the next chapter it speaks of this righteousness as being "**credited**" to our account. (Romans 4:1-11)

--1:18: Paul begins his detailed explanation of the gospel with the topic of the wrath of God: "**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men [mankind]...**"

--the object of God's wrath: "all ungodliness and unrighteousness"

--**ungodliness**: deals with man's relationship with God

--**unrighteousness**: deals with man's relationship with fellow man

--improper relationship with God (ungodliness) naturally leads to improper relationship with fellow man (unrighteousness)

--why does ungodliness and unrighteousness result in the wrath of God?

--in the words of Colossians, God is "the Head" and we were created "for Him..." (Colossians 1:16-18) We were created to be connected to God, like a body is connected to a head. From God's perspective, ungodliness is like a body without a head and unrighteousness is like the actions of a body without the control of a head. **God can't allow headless bodies in heaven!**

--Colossians 1:16-18: "... All things were **created through Him [Christ] and for Him**. 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things consist**. 18 And **He is the head of the body**, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead."

--in the words of Jesus in His parable about the vine...

--John 15:5-6: "**I am the vine, you are the branches**. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and **they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned**." Since dead branches on the ground serve no purpose in the vineyard, it is only natural for them to be gathered and consumed in the fire.

**--2:4-5: "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."**

--in His "forbearance", God is temporarily withholding the full measure of His wrath

--we still suffer the natural consequences of sin (death, disease, human conflict...), but if God didn't withhold the full measure of His wrath, not a single person would be alive.

--Lamentations 3:22-23: "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

--in His "goodness", God allows mankind to enjoy a measure of blessing, a kind of foretaste of heaven... the good things in this life are like heaven compared to hell

--"**the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

--"longsuffering" refers to the duration of God's goodness and forbearance

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

--"treasuring up for yourself wrath in the **day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God**."

--**the Great White Throne Judgement:** Revelation 20:11-15: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... 15 And **anyone not found written in the Book of Life** [list of those whose sins have been paid for by the death of Christ] was **cast into the lake of fire**."

--**either we bear the wrath of God in the eternal lake of fire for our sins or Jesus bears the wrath of God for us on the cross**

--Revelation 21:27: "But there shall by no means enter it [heaven] anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, [*no "Headless bodies..."*] but **only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life**."

--1 Thessalonians 1:9-10: "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

--Hebrews 12:25-29: "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the **removal of those things that are being shaken**, as of things that are made, **that the things which cannot be shaken may remain**. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace,

by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire."