**Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans**

**Two Parallel Revelations from God that I Need to Understand**

**Romans 1:18-25 February 18, 2024**

**Pastor John Lloyd**

As we begin 2024, I can’t think of a more important asset than a “strong faith” relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. “Romans is a feast for one’s soul.” There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way. Today, we will consider two parallel revelations of God’s righteousness and His wrath which are happening right now. We would not need God’s righteousness if there was not wrath (consequences for our sin). The greater our understanding of His wrath will bring a greater appreciation for His grace.

Romans 1:18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**Why Study Romans?** Romans 5:6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

**Big Idea: Help me Lord to fully understand your wrath so that I can fully appreciate your righteousness and grace. The good news set against the bad news is the greatest news.**

**Reflective Question**: Why would I need God’s revelation of righteousness (vs.17), if there was not a revelation of God’s wrath (vs.18)?

**Spiritual Growth Questions for February 18, 2024**

**Opener:** What was the maddest your caretakers were with you? Describe a time when you were really upset about something?

1. **Read Genesis 1:27-28**. What were the original purposes of man and woman? The word sin has a meaning of “missing the mark.” **Consider Matthew 22:37-39**. How do humans miss the original plan of God? **Read Luke 19:10.** What is God’s rescue plan?
2. It’s important to understand the wrath of God. What it means and doesn’t mean. One word for wrath is *Thumos*- we get the words thermometer/thermos- it means red hot anger vs another word for wrath *Orge*-to grow ripe, like fruit when it ripens. **See Romans 2:5**- “storing up wrath.” It is settled and controlled. Why when we imagine wrath do, we usually go to the “*thumos*” definition? Why is it hard to think of God having a settled, determined response to sin? Is it wrong for God of love to have wrath?
3. Why is the wrath of God required? Consider these reasons- A. God is never neutral towards sin, (Romans 1:18). B. God’s revelation has been manifested to all through creation **(Romans 1:19-20**), and through their conscience (**Romans 2:15, 1:32)** so all humans are accountable. C. Man has chosen to suppress the revelation of God that he has received **(Romans 1:21-25**). Is Paul’s proclamation of God’s wrath still valid today?
4. Discuss the types of wrath: A. Indirectly: *wrath* through *natural* consequential(**Galatians 6:7-8).** B. Directly: *God’s final wrath*- (**Romans 2:5 &16)**. C. God’s provisional wrath (**Romans 13:4)** through our judicial system. D. *Wrath of abandonment*- (**Psalm 81:11-12, Hosea 4:17, Romans 1:24, 26 & 28)**. God handing a person over to the idols/lifestyle they have chosen. “Have it your way.”
5. **Read Romans 2:5, 3:5, 5:9, Ephesians 2:3, Colossians 3:6, I Thessalonians 1:10, Romans 12:19.** What do we learn from these verses? Why must God punish sin? **“Without Christ I have no protection from the wrath of God.”** “We will never come to grips with the importance of the Gospel, or be motivated to proclaim it, until this sad truth has been fully integrated into our worldview.” Doug Moo What is missing if we leave out this teaching on wrath?
6. **Read I Thessalonians 1:10, I Peter 3:18, Gal. 3:13, John 3:16 & 36**. Consider the mission of Jesus in experiencing God’s wrath for believers on the cross for our sins? It is not God’s desire that any person experience this wrath. **Read II Corinthians 5:10-11.** Why do you think Paul begins this great book with the fallenness of man?

﻿

Romans 1:20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

God has put his stamp in us, and God has put his workmanship around us.

Psalm 19:4, Acts 14:17 “God did not leave himself without a witness.”

**Beachball theology**- How is God’s truth being held down? Idolatry is anything that stands in the place of God. (See question #2)

Romans 1:21For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

IV. How is God’s wrath \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

1. Final/eschatological wrath- Final reckoning at the last day. Romans 2:5, Revelation – the great white throne of judgment
2. God’s wrath through our judicial system- Romans 13:1-4
3. God’s permissible wrath- God gives you what you want. Also known as the wrath of abandonment. It’s not a good thing to have it your way.

Romans 1:24-Therefore, God *gave them up* in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Romans 1:26 For this reason *God gave them up* to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature

Romans 1:28- And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, *God gave them up* to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (See Ques.#4)

**Without Jesus, I have no protection from God’s wrath!**

V. Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from the wrath to come.

I Thess. 1:9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.Rom.5:9 saved from wrath

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

“We will never come to grips with the importance of the Gospel, or be motivated that we should proclaim it, until this sad truth has been fully integrated into our world view.” Doug Moo

**The good news set against the bad news is the greatest news!**

Revealed-

Overview of Romans 1:18-4:25

This section of Romans shows the absolute necessity of Gospel.

1. Remember that Man’s \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God.

Romans 1 is a perfect summary of the history of mankind which can be found in the Bible.

Genesis 1:27-28- (What were originally created for)

Matthew 22:37-39

Romans 5:12Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Man’s natural propensity is to glorify himself, created things and not God.

How does God respond to man’s distortion of His world and rejection of Him? How do we respond to those who violate our society’s norms?

Is it more loving to ignore this topic and affirm man’s lostness or explain how lost we are and the solution that God has provided through Jesus Christ?

1. God’s response is a revelation of \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

What is God’s wrath? Why is it required? How is it revealed?

Bertrand Russell, Marcion, Greek philosophers reject this idea.

Two words for wrath- *thumos* vs. *orge*

Romans 2:5But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Vincent describes “wrath as God’s personal emotion regarding sin. It represents God’s abhorrence and hatred of sin.”

1. Why is God’s wrath \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Romans 1:18 *Ungodliness*- (first four commandments)

*Unrighteousness-* (Second six commandments)

*Suppress-*

**Wrath is required because humans ignore God’s revelation in creation.**

Romans 1**:**19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.