

## A Brief Outline of Romans 1-3

### 1:16-18 Topic and outline of his discourse introduced

In the message of the gospel there is power to save because in it the way for man to be righteous before God is revealed. This is necessary because mans unrighteousness exposes him to the wrath of God.

Further verses regarding God's 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.
- **Romans 2:5** But 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.
- **Revelation 6:14-17** The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

### 1:18-3:19 Man's State - Guilty and Accountable to God

#### **1:18-32 - The Grossly Immoral Sinner Guilty before God**

- vs. 18 men suppress the truth
- vs. 24,26 - therefor God has given them over to various lusts
- vs. 28 root of depravity - refusal to acknowledge God

#### **2:1-28 - The Outwardly Moral Sinner Guilty before God**

- vs. 1 the moral person also without excuse and under Gods wrath
- vs. 5 wrath being stored up due to an unrepentant heart
- vs. 9-10 retribution certain towards both the upright and wicked
- vs. 11 impartial judgment against both jew (under law) and gentile (without law)
- vs. 12-16 both Jew and Gentile under law
- vs 17 29 being a jew by birth of no value
- vs 29 outward 'righteousness' of no value. God looks at the heart

#### **3:1-19 The Whole World Guilty**

- vs. 9 all under sin
- vs. 10 none righteous
- vs. 11 no one seeks God
- vs. 13 full of lying and deceptiveness
- vs. 14-16 hatred and violence
- vs. 17 the sinner has no peace in his heart
- vs. 18 no fear of God
  
- vs. 19 Conclusion - ALL the world accountable (guilty) before God
- vs. 20 No one can attain righteousness by keeping the law. Rather the law exposes sin.

Key verses regarding the universality of mans guilt and accountability:

- **1:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse
- **1:32** and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.
- **2:1-2** Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things
- **3:9** we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;
- **3:19** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

### **3:21-26 The righteousness that man needs is provided through Christ.**

**3:21-22** - Gods answer to the dilemma - God's way for man to be righteous is manifest (made clear). It is righteousness with comes by putting faith in Jesus Christ

vs. 23 - reiterates once again the universality of mans sin - all have "come short" of Gods glory

**3:24** This righteousness is a "free gift" not something earned. It comes through "the redemption which is in Christ Jesus

- he introduces the work "justified" - legally declared righteous
- 'redemption' - infers payment of a ransom - **Mark 10: 45** - the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**3:25** This 'redemption' was accomplished by Christ's propitiatory sacrifice - i.e. - a sacrifice which satisfied the just demands of the law and thus placated God's wrath

- How? - Our sins were laid upon him (i.e charged to his account)-
  - **1 Peter 2:24** - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Once 'twas a seat of dreadful wrath,  
And shot devouring flame;  
Our God appeared consuming fire,  
And Vengeance was His name.

Rich were the drops of Jesus' blood  
That calmed His frowning face,  
That sprinkled o'er the burning throne,  
And turned the wrath to grace.

vs. **22, 25** - "through faith"

- faith can only be exercised from a position of need. Until a sinner truly sees his guilt and depravity he is unable to exercise true faith
- it is not 'faith in our faith' that saves it is Christ himself that saves
- faith is not base on experience, emotion or a decision we have made. Faith is base on the historical fact of Jesus sacrificial death in which her bore our sins, paid our debt and provided a righteousness not our own
- faith will result in a change of heart - **James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.