



A STUDY OF  
THE BOOK OF  
**ROMANS**

upgrade



# CHAPTER 1

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**upgrade**



# The Righteousness of God

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# ROMANS 1:1 – 7 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, called to be an **apostle, separated** to the gospel of God <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. <sup>5</sup> Through Him we have **received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,** <sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



# 1. Paul's Credentials 1:1 – 7

**Paul begins by establishing his authority and mission:**

- **Servant of Christ** (δοῦλος, doulos): Paul humbly identifies as a “slave” of Christ, illustrating total devotion and submission to His will (v. 1a). This resonates with the Roman audience, where slavery was widespread.
- **Apostle** (ἀπόστολος, apostolos): Paul was “one sent with authority” to proclaim the Gospel (v. 1b). His calling was confirmed by his encounter with the risen Christ (Acts 9:1–9).



**Preacher of the Gospel** (εὐαγγέλιον, euangelion): The “Good News” centers on Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1–4).

### **1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,





**Like Paul, we must embrace our identity in Christ and commit to sharing the Gospel.**

**Quote:** “Paul’s authority did not come from man but from Christ Himself.” (Bible Exposition Commentary, Vol. 1)

- Warren Wiersbe



# ROMANS 1:6 – 7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

<sup>7</sup> To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



## 2. Called to Be Saints 1:6 – 7

Paul reminds believers of their identity:

- **Called** (κλητός, klētos): Set apart by God.
- **Saints** (ἅγιοι, hagioi): Holy ones in Christ.
- **Application:** Live in the holiness to which we are called.

### Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

**Quote:** “Every believer is a saint, set apart for God’s glory.”  
— Wiersbe



# ROMANS 1:11 - 12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

<sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.



# 3. Mutual Encouragement 1:11 – 12

Paul longs to visit Rome for **mutual edification**:

- **Spiritual gift** (χάρισμα, charisma): Strengthening each other in faith.
- **Application**: Invest in fellowship and encouragement within the body of Christ.

## Romans 15:29 (NKJV)

But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

**Quote:** “Christian fellowship is vital for spiritual growth and encouragement.” — Wiersbe



# ROMANS 1:16-17 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."



## 4. The Power of the Gospel 1:16 – 17

**Paul boldly declares his confidence:**

- **Not ashamed** (εὐσχυνομῖ, epaischynomai): Despite societal or cultural scorn, Paul knows the Gospel is God's power for salvation.

**Psalm 40:9 – 10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. <sup>10</sup> I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.



**Salvation** (σωτηρία, sōtēria): Deliverance from sin and its consequences.

### **1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)**

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Righteousness** (δικαιοσύνη, dikaiosynē): Revealed through faith (Hab. 2:4).





Romans 1:17 is the key verse of the letter. In it Paul announces the theme: “the righteousness of God.”

The word “righteousness” is used in one way or another over sixty times in this letter (righteous, just, and justified).

### **God’s righteousness is revealed in the Gospel:**

- In the death of Christ, God revealed His righteousness by punishing sin;
- In the resurrection of Christ, He revealed His righteousness by making salvation available to the believing sinner.



The **problem**, “How can a holy God ever forgive sinners and still be holy?”, is answered in the Gospel. The **answer** is that through the death and resurrection of Christ, God is seen to be “both just and justifier” (Rom. 3:26).

### **Romans 3:26 (NKJV)**

to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



The Gospel reveals a righteousness that is by faith. In the Old Testament, righteousness was by works, but sinners soon discovered they could not obey God's Law and meet His righteous demands.

Here Paul refers to Habakkuk 2:4: "The just shall live by his faith." This verse is quoted three times in the New Testament: Romans 1:17 Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38.

- Romans explains "the just"
- Galatians explains "shall live"
- and Hebrews explains "by faith"

There are more than sixty references to faith or unbelief in Romans.



**Application:** We should live unashamed of the Gospel, trusting its transformative power.

**Quote:** “The Gospel’s power is seen in its ability to save and sanctify.” — Warren Wiersbe



**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

**20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**



# ROMANS 1:18 – 23 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.



# 5. God's Wrath Against Sin 1:18 – 23

## Paul shifts focus to human unrighteousness:

- Paul could have used those awesome words at this point in his letter, because Romans 1:18 is the door that leads us into God's courtroom.
- The theme of Romans is the righteousness of God, but Paul had to begin with the unrighteousness of man.
- Until man knows he is a sinner, he cannot appreciate the gracious salvation God offers in Jesus Christ. Paul followed the basic Bible pattern: first Law and condemnation; then grace and salvation.



## 5. God's Wrath Against Sin 1:18 – 23

**Suppressing truth** (κατέχω, katechō): Humanity willfully rejects God's revelation.

**Idolatry:** Exchanging God's glory for images (v. 23).

Man was willing to use God's gifts, but he was not willing to worship and praise God for His gifts. The result was an empty mind and a darkened heart. Man the worshiper became man the philosopher, but his empty wisdom only revealed his foolishness.





## 5. God's Wrath Against Sin 1:18 – 23

- Having held down God's truth and refusing to acknowledge God's glory, man was left without a god; and man is so constituted that he must worship something.
- If he will not worship the true God, he will worship a false god, even if he has to manufacture it himself! This fact about man accounts for his propensity to idolatry.
- Man exchanged the glory of the true God for substitute gods that he himself made. He exchanged glory for shame, incorruption for corruption, truth for lies.



## 5. God's Wrath Against Sin 1:18 – 23

**Application:** Avoid suppressing God's truth and worship Him wholeheartedly.

**Quote:** "Man's rejection of God leads to moral and spiritual decay."

— Warren Wiersbe



# ROMANS 1:24 – 27 (NKJV)

**24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,**

**25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

**26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.**

**27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.**



## 6. God Gave Them Up 1:24 – 27

Three times Paul states, “God gave them up”:

- To uncleanness (ακαθαρσία, akatharsia)
- To vile passions (πάθη, pathē)
- To dishonorable relationships

**Application:** A life apart from God leads to judgment and brokenness.

**Quote:** Wiersbe emphasizes, “When men forsake God, He allows them to reap the consequences of their rebellion.”



# ROMANS 1:28 – 32 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.



## 7. A Depraved Mind 1:28 – 32)

Paul describes humanity's descent into sin:

- **Depraved or Debased mind** (αδόκιμος, adokimos): Unable to discern right from wrong.

**List of sins:** Paul lists over 20 specific sins, reflecting a complete moral collapse.

**Application:** We must guard our minds and submit to God's truth.

**Quote:** “The mind apart from God spirals into darkness.”

— Wiersbe



# CONCLUSION

**Romans 1 challenges us to commit to all of the following:**

1. Embrace our calling
2. Stand firm in the Gospel
3. Reject sin and idolatry
4. Live holy lives

Let us reflect on these truths and commit to shaping our lives as we live for Christ.