

# Romans: The Foundation of Our Faith

## Student Study Guide

### Part Two

\*Unless otherwise marked scripture is from the NKJV Bible.

#### Romans 1:18-20

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
19because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

20For 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,

Things of God revealed.

#### Romans 1:17

Revelation of God's righteousness is a response to a life lived in active faith. The wrath of God, is the response to a life that actively rejects Him and lives in ungodliness.

Heathen gods must be pacified and their anger soothed with offerings and sacrifices, in contrast God never asks for sacrifices that are motivated by fear of punishment.

Paul writes that the wrath of God is revealed against specific targets:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Target 1 | All godliness: Grossly immoral living; irreverence and disregard for God's Law and His Person.  |
| Target 2 | Unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth.<br>Unrighteousness: The absence of a right attitude inwardly and the absence of right conduct outwardly. |

#### Romans 1:19

Understanding salvation and your need for it.

What God reveals is evident to all people of all times and the things of God are visible to all mankind.

God shows mankind the revelation of truth termed, light in Scripture. You have the choice to accept the truth of God and walk in revelation light, or reject it and walk in darkness.

#### Romans 1:20

The things of God can be clearly seen even, His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature.

Psalm 19:1-4a NIV

1The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

2Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

3There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

4Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

God has given to every human being a revelation of Himself; by observing and experiencing creation, the revelation stimulates a person to seek and to know the Creator.

J. B. Phillips, Bible translator and commentator of, The New Testament In Modern English.

Phillips termed the phrase, Deliberate Atheism.

Meaning of Deliberate Atheism: Everything in existence evolved or is all a matter of chance.

Examples of Deliberate Atheism.

100 monkeys typing, on 100 typewriters, for 100 years, would equal one eloquent Shakespearean play.

A Boeing 787 airplane emerging from an explosion in the junkyard.

If, the Big Bang Theory of chance is correct why isn't this superior technique being utilized for inventions today?

Romans 1:21-23

21because, 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.

22Professing to be wise, they became fools,

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

How to become an idle worshipper, seven steps away from God.

Step 1: The first step away from God is a matter of will and of choice; by not honoring or glorifying God and rejecting the revelation of God and not given His rightful place of worship.

Rejection gives birth to ingratitude.

Step 2: Not being thankful by taking the blessings of God for granted. Being superstitious, like lucky or horoscopes; believing that they are responsible for their own success.

Gives birth to rationalism.

Step 3: Lacking substance by becoming vain in reasonings and imaginations; self-serving and self-centered reasonings, producing emptiness and damaged thinking.

Gives birth to spiritual blindness.

Step 4: Now in this step man has a damaged will his foolish heart is darkened and is deprived of true understanding.

Filled with intellectual pride.

Step 5: Full of intellectual pride, and professing ones-self to be wise the belief in self is given full rein and power.

Step 6: Completely damaged in spirit and soul they became fools, or morons.

Paul's visit to Athens:

Acts 17:28-29

28For in Him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, We are his offspring.

29 Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone - an image made by man's design and skill.

Psalm 14:1

1The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.

Step 7: Actions and choices result in reducing the greatness of the living God to wood, stone, metal, crystals, plastic, and paint they exchanged the revelation of God for an image. They have reduced the greatness of God to a mere substance.

Why is Idolatry so attractive to people?

The darkened heart, believes himself to be the real center of the universe, approaches any situation, he demands control:

Control over conditions.

Control over operations and methods.

Control over people.

Control over any relationships.

Why? For the purpose of exploiting, his own gain or his own pleasure.

You will not be the one in control when you approach the living God. God can never be placed into a position so that you will be able to take advantage of Him.

Believers are called it be submissive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Non-believers call it crazy and insane and want no part of it.

Psalm 106:19-23

19They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image.

20Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass.

21They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

22Wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome things by the Red Sea.

23Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

The basic sin of man.

Romans 1:24-25

24Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,  
25who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Romans 1:24

God does not send people to heaven or to hell, God releases them to their own desires, good or bad and they begin to worship idols.

Romans 1:25

The rejection of the revelation of God. The sin root is idolatry.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

They worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator Himself.

I Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

I Corinthians 10:20

But the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Intentional things to do in worship.

1. Give rightful place to Jesus Christ and direct all of your worship to Him.
2. Give demonstration to your praise and worship. Make the choose to be grateful unto God.

Practicing these two barricades in your life and at church will prevent the third step listed above, being vain and self-centered, from happening in your life.

Romans 1:26-32

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

27Likewise 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.

28And 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;

29being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32who, 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.

## Given over to a depraved mind

Romans 1:26

God gave them up . . .

Romans 1:28

God gave them over . . . God releases them to what they desire.

Romans 1:28

To do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:29-31

These three verses contain 21 Greek terms of what should not be done.

What was God doing before He gave them over to a depraved mind?

Pleading, drawing, hindering.

Romans 1:28-32

These verses describe the characteristics of those who have rejected God and all revelation of Him, they have given up, or exchanged, the glory of God for idol worship.

There are those who seem to fit into these characteristics listed in verses 28-32 that have not been given over to a reprobate or depraved mind.

Romans 1:32

Paul describes pure depravity:

1. Committing sin with the knowledge of the penalty.  
Within oneself is a moral and a mental fog for the penalty of committing sin but continuing to proceed with the inward desire to, Go ahead and push through the fog.
2. Rejoicing with others and encouraging others who practice the same sins.  
The solicitation, recruitment and approval of bad behavior is as bad, or worse than, the actual behavior.

Paul is also witnessing to us about himself, in his past as Saul of Tarsus, holding the coats at Stephen's stoning and martyrdom.

## Major Mistake 1

Making soft the Biblical stand concerning the acts and activities of homosexual men and homosexual women. The sin of homosexuality is no worse than any other sin, all sin is a problem. Believers are not to reject the person who is sinning because of their behavior, we love the sinner and hate the sin. We should always remember that we were loved first, in spite of our behavior, before we were born again.

Scriptures that describe homosexual behavior.

Genesis 13:13	Wicked
Leviticus 18:22	Abomination
Deuteronomy 23:18	Dog (homosexual prostitute)
Romans 1:24	Lusts
Romans 1:26	Vile affections
Romans 1:26	Against nature
Romans 1:27	Unseemly
Jude 7	Eternal fire raining down on Sodom and Gomorrah

In the Book of Judges, the Israelites are warned about two practices, the worship system and religious practices of the local Canaanites. God promises that if the Israelites do such things, He will vomit them out of the land of Canaan.

1. Children sacrificed to the god Molech by fire.
2. Ritualized homosexual activity as religious worship on the alters.

The book of Romans is not against the homosexual person or their homosexual behavior, but deals with the reason for Salvation. There is a cure for sin, the Blood of Jesus Christ.

## Major Mistake 2

Lessening the presentation of the Salvation of Jesus Christ, with speech about politics, civil rights, and sexual or gender orientation.

Inspired by Romans 1:24-32, rewritten by R. Kent Hughes for Believers:

Therefore, God gave them over in their hearts to self-control and purity, that their bodies might be honored among them.

For they kept and cherished the truth of God and worshipped and served the Creator, who is blessed forever, rather than the creature. Amen.

For this reason, God gave them over to pure and wholesome lives, lived with carefree ease even in the most intimate relations so that all received in their own persons the due reward of their fidelity.

And just as they saw fit to acknowledge God in all things, God gave them over to a sound mind, to do those things which are proper, being filled with all righteousness, goodness, generosity, kindness; full of selflessness, life healing, openness, kindness; they are gentle in speech, always building others up, lovers of God, respectful, humble, self-effacing, inventors of good, obedient to parents, understanding, trustworthy, loving, merciful; and as they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are possessors of life, they do the same, and give hearty approval to those who do likewise.

## Romans 2:1-4

1Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

2But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

3And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

4Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

### The Moral Man

It is easy to get a non-Christian to admit that he is a sinner they say, nobody is perfect.

The non-Christian may see big sins, while making excuses for little or minor sins that they consider not to be worthy of any punishment at all.

False theology:

It is man's nature to always sin, it is God's nature to always forgive.

Problems with this philosophy

1. Not accepting the holiness of God.
2. Not thinking that sin, all sin, is sinful and unacceptable.

The Big Sin and Little Sin Sampler:

Stealing: It's not really shoplifting; If I need that stuff and it's overpriced.

Looting: Those rich shopkeepers owe me.

Lying: Exaggerating the truth; or just telling a little white lie.

Prejudice: That's just how I was raised. I have always have had very bad experiences with that ethnic, tribal or racial group.

Murder: Hate and revenge, getting even.

You can be blind to your own sin but clear towards someone else's sinful behavior.

Moral Man can be properly termed, Self-righteous.

Definition of a Self-righteous man: Someone who has determined a code of ethics and morals, and then holds everyone else to their standards.

The man who says, You have no right to judge me, is making a judgment about you, your motives, and your behavior.

The false belief that the morally right man, will build a life that is acceptable and approved by God. Getting their righteousness, the old-fashioned way, they earn it.

The Apostle Paul was saved out of being a good, and moral man.

Anarchy guidelines: There is only one rule; There are no rules.

God judges all men fairly.

Romans 1:5-6

Every man is judged according to his own deeds. Your deeds reflect how much you understand. What you know will affect what you do and what you say. Light is the revelation of Scripture and light equals responsibility. The subject is judgment, not the receiving of Salvation.

Romans 1:11

There is no partiality with God, no favorites, no hidden bias, no prejudice, only fairness and justice. Jesus Christ is the only eternal Judge and He is always fair.

Group 1        The Pagan Man or Barbarian, is without excuse or defense, and is condemned. Based upon the Pagan Man or Barbarians rejection of the clear revelation of God.

Group 2        The Moral or Self-Righteous Man, is without excuse or defense, and is condemned. He knows the truth and declares himself to be righteous by his own works.

Examples of other basis of Self-righteousness:

Church membership

A preacher in the family

Did two good deeds last year.

Knows of someone who is morally worse than them.

Romans 2:1-11 NIV

1You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

2Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

3So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

4Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

5But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

6God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

7To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, he will give eternal life.

8But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

9There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

10but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.



11For God does not show favoritism.

Review of Paul's presentation.

Romans 1:18-32

The pagan man is condemned

Romans 2:1-16

The moral man is condemned

Romans 2:17-24

The religious man is condemned

First major concept:

God is holy and cannot ever be polluted or even smudged by sin. God can not approve of any ungodliness or unrighteousness in man. God is righteous; man is sinful.

Second major concept:

Built upon the first one concept: Justification. God bequeaths it to you and declares, righteousness on your account.

Justification: The judicial or legal act of God declaring a sinner to be righteous. You cannot earn it; it is a gift.

Man's justification of forgiveness:

Me: I'm sorry, and I am very sad about it.

God: That's okay, we'll just let it go this time.

For this conversation to occur, it would mean that God is not fair. Romans 2:11 states that God is no respecter of persons; that He deals with every person fairly and evenly. There will not be any exceptions made concerning sin. Sin damages our relationship with God. Sin damages us as well.

Romans 2:12-13

12For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

13(for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

Judgment for sin.

Romans 2:12

The emphasizes is not upon the relationship between sin and the Law of Moses, but between sin and judgment.

All sin is judged and will be judged, whether you possess and understand the Law as given to Moses, or not.

The possession of the Law of Moses brings with it special privileges and special responsibilities.

Jewish Posture: We have the Law of Moses.  
You sure do have the Law. . . Now what?

Romans 2:13

The knowledge of the Law is not enough; merely knowing to do right, and not doing right, is wrong and insufficient.

Paul asks:     How much do you know?  
                  How much do you really understand?

Romans 2:14-15

14for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,  
15who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Romans 2:14

What about people who do not have a Bible?

Cicero, the famous Stoic philosopher of the Roman Empire, 2000 years ago said,  
“The law is the supreme reason implanted in nature which approves the things that ought to be done, and prohibits what ought not to be done.”

The pagans, the intellectuals, the agnostics, the atheists when they are brave enough to be truly honest in their evaluation, will reach the same conclusion:  
There is something within us that speaks to us of right and wrong.

Romans 2:15

How can people across the centuries, who have the barriers of different cultures, difficulty of languages, different philosophical and religious differences, show and demonstrate the work of the Law of Moses?

Everywhere you go around the world, lying is considered wrong.  
In the spiritual dimension God rules; every person in the world knows lying is wrong, even when they are lying, they know it.

God is at work in every single person’s life through:

1. Their innermost belief of their HEART.
2. Their CONSCIENCE bears witness.  
The reminder Agent, the Holy Spirit, is activated and convicts everyone of sin.
3. Their THOUGHTS work inside them as a prosecuting attorney. Presenting the evidence, the rules, and the reasoning to them.
4. The ACTION of the individual is not reactive or instinct, but a result of this God-designed process.

Romans 2:14

Paul uses the word DO.

Your deeds, your action, your behavior, and your chooses reflect what you internally know and believe to be right and wrong. The things you do.

Romans 2:16

In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. Judgment is from God.

Be careful to not define a God of love that is so gracious, so soft and wimpy that you do not permit Him to act in judgment of sin.

God does not act out of whim or even on some set of rules. He responds to sin and all know that sin is wrong.

Judgment is from God through Jesus Christ, and none other.

Romans 2:16 Answers the implied question from Verse 13, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

The day when God shall judge the secrets of men (you and I) by Jesus Christ according to the gospel. On that day all secrets will be revealed.

God revealed Himself through Abraham and Moses to the Jew. While they knew the right way, their hearts were far from God. They set themselves up as judges of other peoples and nations.

Romans 2:17-24

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

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

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

20For 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,

21because, 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.

22Professing to be wise, they became fools,

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

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

Romans 2:17-18

Jews meaning, Praise to Jehovah. The Jews possessed of the Law and know the truth and they had pride in knowing God's will.

The privilege of knowing God's will comes with the responsibility, to **do** the will of God.

Romans 2:19-23

You Jews are doing precisely what you know and teach others not to do.

Judgmental mindsets are seen as hypocrisy to unbelievers.

Romans 2:24

When you have the truth and disobey, your testimony your witness to others is that God's name is blasphemed to other people.

When you know the will of God and you openly disobey, you are the hypocrite people see, and it becomes your testimony to them, and in their view of your testimony is swept away.

## Review

Why are we hearing about condemnation? Because the wrath of God is exhibited and demonstrated as a necessary part of His holiness and righteousness.

What is the opposite of love? Anger or hatred . . . Wrong. Both still involve some form of interaction with the relationship or situation.

Answer: Indifference or apathy (I don't care). Non-existence.

God's love and care for you and demands holiness. He is holy and He demands that you be holy.

The person you are the most disappointed in or upset with are the ones that you love the most and often at the top of the list you may find that you are disappointed in yourself.

When you look in the mirror and you see an accusation blaring at you, you become motivated to do something that is different than the accusation.

Gentiles, or pagans, have no excuse for their wrongdoing, because they have rejected the revelation of God and embraced idolatry.

Condemnation comes upon the self-righteous or the moralist, because they have a understanding of their own moral rules and break them.

The moral man thinks his good citizenship and good works, will come into favor with God.

## Practical application:

Term	First occurrence	Meaning
Jew	II Kings 16:6	A race distinct from Gentiles
Hebrew	Genesis 14:13	Origin and language
Israelite	Genesis 32:28	Brings out their relationship to God

Jew, Hebrew and Israelite are often used interchangeably, even though the terms are technically different.

### Group 3

The religious man, the Jew. God revealed Himself through Abraham and Moses to the Israelite nation. While they knew the right way, their hearts as a nation and as a people were far from God.

They are guilty of failure to do the will of God while knowing what to do.

Not only does the Jew not receive special treatment, they receive additional condemnation from God.

The test for a spiritual man.

Romans 2:25-27

25For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

26Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

27And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?

The test for a spiritual, religious man is the false sense of security that religious ceremony gives.

The outward sign or badge of the covenant described in Genesis 17 between God and Abraham, is a symbol that:

There is a covenant, or a binding agreement, between two willing parties.

The covenant is ratified by blood.

The covenant is still in effect.

Romans 2:25

Outward signs have value but only if they are backed up by the substance of inward obedience to God, otherwise, the outward sign is as if it were not there at all.

The criticism from Paul is, that there was circumcision but, there was no heart change.

Romans 2:17

The Jew has been condemned for disobedience.

Romans 2:25

The Jew is now condemned for hypocrisy.

The test of obedience is, what has God revealed to your heart.

What has God gifted you to do and what has He instructed you to do with it.

Compare what you are doing with what God has already told you to do.

What God has shown you in revelation is what you are to be obedient too; there is to be no comparison between Believers and there is to be no ranking between

Believers in reference to revelation, gifting and assignments; these are your own internal resources that only you can judge.

What has God gifted me to do, or instructed me to do, and have I done with it?

Examples of some personal resources: Spiritual, educational, wisdom, the transference of knowledge, financial, emotional, relational.

The hidden heart comparison that God will reveal on that Great Day when the trophies are handed out, and He says, Well done good and faithful Servant, come enter into the Joy of your Lord.

#### Romans 2:26

The outward signs have value only if they are backed up by the substance of inward obedience. Otherwise, the outward sign is as if they were not there at all.

A first century Jew would have to go home and really think about this statement, it is that staggering to a Jew.

If, the uncircumcised obey the revealed will of God they are regarded as circumcised.

Now any Believer is considered in God's eye to be elevated and are superior over the Jew because of their circumcised heart.