

# The Book of Romans

## I. Paul's Introduction to his **Letter** (1:1-17)

A. His *Initial Greetings* (1:1-7)

B. His *Intent* to **Come** and Minister among **Them** (1:8-17)

## II. Paul *Declares* Man's Need for **God's** Salvation and Righteousness (1:18-3:20)

### A. He *Declares* that the Wrath of **God** is Revealed Against all *Ungodliness* and *Unrighteousness* of **Men** (1:18-2:29)

1. Having been *revealed* against those *who* have “**suppressed the truth of God in unrighteousness**” (1:18-32)

a. *Who* have rejected the true knowledge of **God** made **evident to them** (1:18-20)

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

<sup>19</sup> **because** that which is **known about God** is evident *within* them; for **God** made it evident to them.

<sup>20</sup> 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**.

b. *Who* have exchanged the truth and glory of **God** for the *vanity* and *foolishness* of idolatry (1:21-23)

<sup>21</sup> For even though they **knew God**, they did **not honor** Him as **God** or **give thanks**, but they became **futile** in their **speculations**, and their **foolish heart** was **darkened**.

<sup>22</sup> **Professing** to be **wise**, they became **fools**,  
<sup>23</sup> and **exchanged** the **glory** of the **incorruptible God** for an **image** in the **form** of **corruptible** man and of **birds** and four-footed **animals** and crawling **creatures**.

c. **Who** now face **abandonment by God** to the “lusts” of their own hearts (1:24-31)

<sup>24</sup> Therefore **God gave them over** in the **lusts** of their hearts to **impurity**, so that their **bodies** would be **dishonored** among them.

<sup>25</sup> For they **exchanged** the **truth of God** for a **lie**, and **worshipped** and **served** the **creature rather** than the **Creator**, who is **blessed forever**. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason **God gave them over** to **degrading passions**; for their **women exchanged** the **natural function** for that which is **unnatural**,

<sup>27</sup> and in the **same way** also the **men abandoned** the **natural function** of the **woman** and **burned** in their **desire** toward one another, **men with men** committing **indecent acts** and **receiving** in their **own persons** the **due penalty** of their error.

<sup>28</sup> And just as they did **not** see fit to **acknowledge God** any longer, **God gave them over** to a **depraved mind**, to do those things which are **not proper**,

<sup>29</sup> being filled with all **unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil**; full of **envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice**; *they are gossips,*  
<sup>30</sup> **slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,**  
**inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,** <sup>31</sup> **without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;**

d. **Who** know the **ordinance (law)** and **condemnation of God**, yet **practice** and **approve** of the **unrighteousness** (1:32)

<sup>32</sup> 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**.

## Summary Outline

A. **He Declares** that the **Wrath of God** is **Revealed** Against **all Ungodliness** and **Unrighteousness of Men** (1:18-2:29)

1. Having been **revealed** against **those** who have “**suppressed the truth in unrighteousness**” (1:18-32)

a. **Who** have **rejected** the **true knowledge of God** made **evident to them** (1:18-20)

- 1) a *knowledge* “suppressed” by unrighteousness (1:18)
  - 2) a *knowledge* made “evident” by His creation (1:19-20)
- b. *Who* have exchanged the truth and glory of God for the *vanity* and *foolishness* of idolatry (1:21-23)
- 1) refusing to honor and give thanks to the true God (1:21a)
  - 2) having their hearts “darkened” by *vain* and *foolish speculations* (1:21b-22)
  - 3) exchanging the glory of the *incorruptible God* for that of *corruptible images* (1:23)
- c. *Who* now face abandonment by God to the “lusts” of their own hearts (1:24-31)
- 1) *Who* “gave them over” to their own lusts, resulting in impurity and the dishonoring of their own bodies (1:24)
  - 2) *Who* had been abandoned by them, as they *exchanged* the truth of God for “a lie” (1:25)
  - 3) *Who* “gave them over” to degrading passions (1:26-27)
  - 4) *Who* “gave them over” to all manner of depravity and ungodliness (1:28-31)
- d. *Who* know the ordinance (law) and God’s righteous judgment, yet *practice* and *approve* of the unrighteousness (1:32)

## A Narrative of Tonight’s Text

Our text tonight began with **Rabbi Paul** declaring that the wrath or anger of God is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of those who “suppress” or hold down the truth (of God) in unrighteousness (1:18).

This suppressing of the truth by unrighteous men would now be expanded on further by **Paul** as he reveals why all men (**Gentiles** and **Jews**) *need* his gospel message of salvation and righteousness by faith in Messiah.

To begin with, Paul declared that the true knowledge of God has been made evident to men from the beginning of creation, for **God** “made it evident to them (1:19a).”

**God’s invisible attributes**, His **eternal power**, and His **divine nature** have been clearly seen through the creation He has made (1:20).

This has been called **God’s “general revelation”** to **man**.

*It is He (God) who made the earth by His power,*

**Who** established the world by **His wisdom**;  
And by **His understanding** He has stretched out the heavens...

**Every man** is stupid, devoid of knowledge;  
Every goldsmith is put to **shame** by his **idols**;  
For his molten **images** are **deceitful**,  
And there is **no breath** in them. (Jeremiah 10:12, 14)

However, even though **men** had this **knowledge of God**,  
they **refused** to **honor Him** or be **thankful** (1:21a).

Instead, they became **vain** in their **speculations**,  
and their **hearts** were **darkened**. Though claiming to be **wise**  
they became **fools**, and **exchanged** the **glory** of the **incorruptible God**  
for **images** of **corruptible men** and **animals** (1:21b-23).  
This gave rise in **Paul's time** to the variety of **pagan gods** and **images**  
with **animal type features** that were **embraced** and **worshipped**  
by the so-called **enlightened** civilizations of his day.

**Paul** concluded that the **pagan world** had  
“**exchanged** the **truth of God** for a **lie**,” and were **worshipping** and  
**servicing** the “**creation**” rather than its **blessed “Creator** (1:25).”

They had “**suppressed**” the **truth** with **their unrighteousness**.  
As a **result**, **God's wrath** would indeed be **revealed**,  
and it came at **this** time in the form of **His “abandonment”** of the  
**heathen world** to **suffer** the **consequences** of **their rejection**  
of the **true knowledge of God**.

We read tonight that **God “gave them over”** to the **lusts** of  
their **own hearts**. This **resulted** in **impurity** and the  
“**dishonoring**” of their own **bodies** among themselves (1:24).

We read tonight that **God “gave them over”** (both **women** and **men**)  
to “**degrading passions**.” This resulted in **women exchanging**  
their **natural function** for that which is **unnatural**,  
and **men abandoning** the **natural function** of **women**  
to “**burn in lust**” for **one another** (1:26-27).

We read tonight that because men did not see fit  
to **acknowledge God any longer**,  
that God “**gave them over**” to a “**depraved mind** (1:28).”  
Paul then **listed** the **characteristics** of those who had been  
“**given over**” to **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** (1:29-31).

Closing Comments  
Has **God abandoned America?**