



UNDERSTANDING MY WORLD AND LOVING IT ANYWAY

June 22 & 23, 2024

Romans 1:18-32 (NIV)

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Who was Paul?

- **A servant of Jesus – his _____**
Romans 1:1a “Paul, a servant of Christ...”
- **An apostle – his _____**
Romans 1:1b “...called to be an apostle...”
- **A Gospel preacher – his _____**
Romans 1:1c “...set apart for the gospel of God.”

Who is Jesus?

- **He is fully _____.**

Romans 1:3 (NLT)

The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line...

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

- **He is fully _____.**

Romans 1:4 (NIV)

... and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:4 (NLT)

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

5 Keys to Becoming Effective Ministers

1 _____ people.

Romans 1:8-9 (NIV)

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you...

2 _____ for people.

Romans 1:10 (NIV)

...in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

3 _____ as much time with Christians as possible.

Romans 1:11 (NIV)

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong...

4

Use my _____ to serve in my church.

Romans 1:12-14 (NIV)

...that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

5

_____ the good news about Jesus with everyone.

Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

3 Damaging Effects of Apathetic Christians

1. Our world embraces _____ passions.

Romans 1:21-25 (NIV)

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

2. Our churches embrace _____ behavior.

Romans 1:26-27 (NLT)

That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

3. Our culture celebrates _____ practices.

Romans 1:28-32 (NLT)

Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

What's the Solution?

- **It's not _____.**

Titus 2:11-12 (NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God...

- **It's not _____.**

John 17:15-19 (NIV)

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

- **It is _____.**

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT)

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

1 John 4:10, 16-19 (NLT)

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first.



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Who was Paul?

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- **An apostle – his authority**
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- **A Gospel preacher – his mission**
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Who is Jesus?

- **He is fully human.**
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The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line...
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This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.
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... and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
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He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

5 Keys to Becoming Effective Ministers



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Encourage people.

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Pray for people.

Romans 1:10 (NIV)

...in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.



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Spend as much time with Christians as possible.

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I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong...

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Use my S.H.A.P.E. to serve in my church.

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...that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

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