



The Missing Gospel

A FULLER PICTURE OF GOD
FOR THE **Romans**

1

Yes, No & Maybe

1. I provoke the wrath of God less than the other people in this room.
2. One of my greatest fears is accidentally embarrassing myself in public.
3. Our righteousness comes from our expression of faith.
4. When God gets angry He abandons us.
5. Society is becoming more bizarre, simply because God is not keeping people from becoming morons.

DIG DEEPER:

❓ Have you ever thought God was angry with you? What was that experience like?

READ: Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

*16 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. 17 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.**”*

▲ (Vs. 16) **Not ashamed** - The Roman world was an honor-shame culture, not a guilt-forgiveness culture. This is addressing questions of honor and shame in a caste society, a major theme in Romans (e.g., 1:21, 22, 24, 26, 31; 2:7, 19, 23; 6:21; 9:33; 10:11; 12:10; 13:7; 14:6). Christians among the Roman churches are ashamed of each other. They are calling each other names, like “circumcised privates” and “foreskin” (ch. 2), “weak” and “strong” (chs. 14-15), because they do not believe the gospel redefines social and religious status.

∨ (Vs. 17) **“The righteous will live by faith.”** - Habakkuk 2:4b, ‘the righteous shall live by **his** faith’. This may be called the ‘text’ of this letter; what follows is in large measure an explanation of Habakkuk’s words.

❓ What is “the gospel,” and how do you think it reveals God’s righteousness?

READ: Romans 1:18-32 (NIV)

*18 **The wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 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.*

21 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. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

*24 Therefore **God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts to*



DIG DEEPER: CONTINUED...

sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, **God gave them over** to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 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.

28 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. 29 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, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 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.

▲ (Vs. 18) The Wrath of God - "Wrath" is orgē (ὀργή). The word is used of God's wrath in Matthew 3:7, Romans 1:17, 12:19. It is used when, after healing the man with the withered hand, He observed the hardness of heart of the Pharisees, and looked upon them with anger (Mk. 3:5). Some theologians describe orgē (ὀργή) as God's personal emotion with regard to sin. It represents God's abhorrence and hatred of sin. The same authorities note that orgē (ὀργή) is not punishment of sin but God's attitude towards it.

🔗 In your lifetime, has there been a change in the way you view God's wrath? How has this viewpoint changed or stayed the same?

▲ (Vss. 24,26,28) God gave them over - "Gave up/abandoned" is paradidomi (παράδωμι), "to give into the hands of another, to give over into one's power or use." In other words, God would not violate man's will and force him to do something he did not want to do. When men persisted in following their totally depraved natures, God allowed them free rein.

√ (Vs. 22) **"Became fools"** is mōrainō (μωραίνω), Our word "moron" comes from mōros (μωρός).

√ (Vs. 25) **"Exchanged"** is metallassō (μεταλλάσσω), "to exchange one thing for another." Instead of the truth of God, humanity embraced a lie.

√ (Vs. 28) **"...They rejected"** after trial just as δοκιμάζω [dokimazō] is used of testing coins. They tested God at first and turned aside from him.

🔗 What does it tell you about the character of God that His wrath leads Him to give people their freedom from Him?

Notes:

My Prayers This week:

1. How does the gospel take away my shame?
2. Where have I struggled with exchanging God's truth for a lie?
3. What new aspect of God's character do I understand better this week?

