

Romans

Chapter 1

Greeting and introduction. Salutation. Paul identifies himself as the author. He is separated in order to preach the Gospel. He is a servant, *duolos*. He used to be a Pharisee. His authority is that he was called. Now he is a bond servant.

The Gospel was promised before through the Scriptures. The Scriptures and prophets all bear witness to Jesus. Born as son of David and the Son of God. The resurrection is the proof. We have grace and apostleship through Him. The people in the church at Rome were also called. Gentiles also.

The faith of that church is known throughout the world. Paul prays for them all the time. Wants to come to them. Wants to impart a spiritual gift to them. To encourage them and for he, himself, to be encouraged. People of faith are encouraged by each other. Even if you don't know each other.

Paul always wanted to produce fruit. He will preach the Gospel to anyone, everywhere. Debtor – profitable servant. Greeks and barbarians. Ready to preach at Rome even with all the opposition.

He is not ashamed of the Gospel. Think about what it would be to him and to intellectual people. It was foolishness. It is salvation. Paul had been transformed. The Gospel is the Power of God. It is the Righteousness of God. So he is ready to preach at Rome or anywhere. He is used to rejection.

For everyone who believes; Jew and Greek. Based on faith. Gentiles were scorned by Israel; but now they come into the Kingdom through the Jewish Messiah. Simeon.

The just shall live by faith. Hab 2:4

Law reveals sin and unrighteousness. Later Paul will talk about grace. Wrath comes against ungodliness (first tablet of the Law) and unrighteousness (second tablet.) God is Just and men are sinners.

They suppress the Truth. Directly resist the Truth. Pride, vanity.

God has *shown* His Power and Glory through the whole Creation. Shows Himself in what he made. Reveals Himself. A workman is known by his work. If they refuse to glorify Him, refuse to thank Him, they turn to idolatry. They think that they are wise but they become fools.

Make God in their own image. Also worship creatures . Even though they are intelligent. Great tendency to idolatry. Even for the Jews. They *exchange* the glory.

So God gives them over. We are not forced to worship Him. Gives them over to their lusts and desires. Gives them over to uncleanness.

Gives them over to the most vile passions. "For this reason;" this happens because they did not worship God and worshipped creatures. Ancient commentators couldn't even comment on this. They thought that homosexuality would produce disease, premature aging, and early death.

God gives them over to a debased or reprobate mind. In things other than sexual morality. They abandon God and He abandons them. They do not even realize why these things happen.

Because God shows His Glory in Creation, they are without excuse.

Also, THOSE WHO APPROVE OF THESE THINGS are also guilty and subject to judgment. The judgment is death.