

ROMANS: "Transformed by Grace"

(Rom. 1:18-23)

What's your best excuse for being late? Some people live to find excuses to get out of their resp.

Main PT: B/c God is the creator of all life and all things, **He is owed right worship** due His Name

READ Romans 1:18-23

So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith (from faith first to last); as it is written: "But the righteous *one* will live by faith." *¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not ^lhonor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures."

Good News= Vs. 16: the gospel...is the power of God for *salvation* to everyone who believes

-Salvation = **rescue** (spiritual and physical rescue from self, sin, satan, death -for all eternity)

-Salvation is *because* of God's **love** (John 3:16) through God's sovereign **power** =He alone

changes our eternity = **divine power is unstoppable & unthwarted** =aimed at our hearts to **save**

-Salvation reveals God's heart and His plan for the world: **Redemption & Restoration** =His glory

Vs. 17: For in the Gospel (good news) *the* righteousness of God is revealed (from faith first to last); as it is written: "But the righteous *one* will live by faith." The gospel of God shows the

world His **loving-kindness** toward us (undeserving, rebellious, enemies of God) -

His **grace** = giving to us eternal life that we did not deserve, nor ever could earn

His **mercy** = withholding from us the just penalty of death & condemnation that we did earn

Why is this truly good news? Why does the gospel show God's righteousness, grace, mercy?

Some things just go together: Peanut Butter/Jelly =You cannot have good news without bad news.

Because there **cannot be truly GOOD News without really BAD NEWS:** What's the Bad News?

VS. 18: For the **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against **all** ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

-Wrath-(*orge*) =Anger, punishment, judgment; righteous indignation ...**toward who? What?**

-Ungodliness = impious; irreverent; disrespectful toward God's nature/work/law; = **the godless**

-Jude 14-15 "the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to

judge everyone, and to **convict** all of them of all the **ungodly acts** they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the **defiant words** ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶ These

people are *grumblers* and *faultfinders*; they follow their *own evil desires*; they *boast* about themselves and *flatter* others for their own advantage. Self-centered creatures = **self on throne**

-Ungodliness/Unrighteousness (any characteristic, behavior, thought, action, motivation which does not reflect the holy, righteous character of God). i.e. **sin**/missing mark OR **falling short** of...

-The standard of our life is God: **Holiness** Lev. 11:44; 1Pt. 1:16 "Be holy, because I am holy."

*We are always ready to compare ourselves to others, rather than God Himself. =Our standard
-Eph. 5:3-6 “But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.” =(divine judgment; holy anger)

-Col. 3:5-6 “Put to death, therefore, the components of your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.”

-Rom. 5:9 “Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath - through Jesus” – so if we are justified/forgiven/clean = **live like it!!!!**

*God’s anger burns against those **A. Who irreverently reject right worship of God**

B. Who rob God of His glory;

C. and Who pursue worship of self and any other idols of the heart or of our making.

Why? =Willful rebellion against God Himself; His holy nature; and His sovereign power

VS. 19: because that which is *known* about God is **evident within them**; for God made it evident to them. Not only is God knowable, -He has made Himself KNOWN. =God’s existence is knowable

HOW? 1. Every human being is accountable to God b/c we are created w/ a moral **Conscience**

-God created every human being with a **conscience** (lit. *with knowledge*): internal **Right/wrong**

-**Internal code** of good/bad, based of God’s moral nature which reflects His own glory/truth

-**Why do you feel violated when someone takes what is yours? Car? Dog? Girlfriend? Account?**

(do you need a U.S statute of law to tell your heart that you feel wronged by that?) **Hit/run??**

-**ALL of us, in all parts of the world, all lang., cultures, tribes, for all history know right/wrong**

Just like we all know **pain/pleasure** or **hot/cold** or **sweet/salty** or **down/up** or **male/female**

-**We all are accountable to God** b/c He created each us with a piece of Himself w/in us =**Truth**

Romans 2:14-15 “when Gentiles, who do not have the [O.T.] law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.”

2. Every human being is accountable to God b/c the world was **created** to reflect His sovereign **design** and purpose. God’s existence is knowable through creation –through the world around us

VS. 20: For since the creation of the world, His invisible *attributes, that is, His eternal **power** and **divine nature**, have been *clearly perceived*, being **understood** by what has been made,*

-**When we examine the intricacies of a watch, we logically conclude = watchmaker made this!**
watch =400 moving parts. Keeping perfect time. **747=6mill. Parts.** (random? By design!)

***Microscopic:** atomic level; cellular level; **Organic** level; eye/brain; **Atmospheric** lvl; **Telescopic**

-Look at the **SUN**...how powerful. **Solar ball of nuclear fusion** = glorious, destructive, beautiful
Sun is 109X larger than the earth. Could fit 1.3million earths inside the sun. Giants, supergiants, & hypergiants many times bigger than the sun. -**Think about who MADE the sun.** How powerful of being would it take to make the sun/galaxies? **The biggest single entity that scientists have identified in the universe is a supercluster of galaxies called the Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall. It's so wide that light takes about 10 billion years to move across the entire span.**

-Psalm 19:1-6 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the **sun**, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat."

-Psalm 8:3-4 "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them."

-Isaiah 40:21-22 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? ²² God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in."

-Acts 17:24-28 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being

-Acts 14:15-16 "We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

Every human being on the earth, every person ever created is accountable to God b/c the world was designed & **created** to reflect His existence -the CREATOR; the universe, this world, our planet and every living thing exist to reflect God's design, purpose, and His glory.

***God's existence is knowable through both our inner conscience & outward through creation**

Vs. 20: so that they are without excuse. The world is without excuse. YOU are without excuse!! -God has made Himself knowable, discoverable, identifiable – IF we will yield & submit to what testifies in our hearts and through our experience of His creation. **BUT**....what do we do???

VS. 21: For even though they **knew God, [=knew God existed; Adam & Eve's testimony; Noah's testimony], they (the world) did not honor Him as God or give thanks (rejected God; refused to worship Him), but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. – **when** we reject the obvious, the logical, the practical, the reality of sensory experience and common sense; **when we reject our conscience & the clues of creation-rebellion** -**We are given over to depravity; lives bent toward evil, hearts to depraved experiences, minds yielded to degenerate reasoning, & souls become spiritually dead. SEPARATED****

VS. 22: Claiming to be wise, they became fools, -clueless reality, pointless existence, and meaningless lives without God; reject evidence of their minds/hearts/ & creation = sp. DEAD

VS. 23: and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures [reptiles]."

In their open rebellion toward God, they chose to worship self (throne of their life) OR they chose to worship man-made idols, or made-up entities, or (**biggest insult**)=**animals** around them

-Mankind is naturally **religious**; **all tribes worship something???** **Why?**

=Because God has created all of us for Himself; for relationship; for worship of the One True God!

-Eccl. 3:11 “**God has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without the possibility that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.**” **Because** man has rejected God’s overtures toward him and **because** man has chosen open rebellion against God, His existence, His nature, His glory & worship due

Vs. 18: For the wrath of God (His anger/judgment) is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness

***God’s anger burns against those** Who irreverently reject right worship of God, Who rob God of His glory; and Who pursue worship of self and any other idols of the heart or of our making.

-Because God is the creator of all life and all things, **He is owed right worship** due His Name

-God is **due all glory in your life**; to yield your life and surrender all to His glorious presence

-God has called each of us to live a holy, set-apart, consecrated life where **He shines in you** as the Lord of your life and **through you** to bring others to Himself. **Is this true of you??**

APPLICATION

1. The Testimony of God’s existence and Sovereign Creator is abundantly clear
2. God’s glory is being proclaimed all around us (even if we don’t participate) -Lk 19:40
3. The truths about God are clear to see, evident, worldwide, & no lang. barrier
4. General revelation of God’s existence within conscience & in creation mean everyone is held accountable to both knowledge of God and worship of God. = “Without excuse”
5. Those who are believers are to leverage their life and worship of God to help others with the special revelation that Jesus is God and saves sinners like us.

What about you today? Which camp do you find yourself in this morning?

-In tune with your inner conscience (there is a God who made you, knows u, loves u??)

-In tune with creation as the overwhelming evidence of God’s existence is everywhere; His handiwork in creation screams at your mind and soul = **God alone is WORTHY of worship?**

OR are you still running from God? Intellectually you reject His existence? Morally, you find God’s story of redemption repugnant? YOU are on the throne of your own life?

- What Idols have you embraced in your life that are replacing your worship of God? time? \$?
- Who in your life can you share with to remind them of God’s sovereign place in the universe?
- How about practical atheism? You believe in God, but your actions/daily life never include God in any meaningful way. You are living as a practical atheist.

