

ROMANS 1.16-32 (NASB) unless noted differently

Good morning OIC. This morning I will continue to work at bringing out the meaning of Paul's Letter to the Roman Church. This is called expository preaching for it attempts to bring out or expose what the writer meant in detail, and thus what God was speaking in the Holy Bible.

I have repeated verse 16 from last week to highlight verse 17 in context, and for an interesting correlation with v.18 regarding *Revealed from Heaven*.

Romans 1.16 *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.* Paul's powerful impact on the Gentile world was in his keeping the main theme simple. As I mentioned last Sunday, he was proclaiming Man's Sin Problem and the only cure, God's Solution through His Son Jesus. He then would go into detailed meanings and sub-themes, but never at the expense of his Mission, to declare a person's belief,... or lack of belief, in Jesus's Sacrificial death on a Cross in Jerusalem, will determine where that person will spend eternity. He also emphasized this to the Corinthians in (1 Corinthians 2.1-3) *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.*

His tremendous use of the human language, in Greek and Hebrew, may impress us as we read his letters; but he was determined that the whole world know the power is in the Message of Christ's Cross and not the men who proclaim it.

Men often want something more glamorous or elegant with complicated rules and theories for their salvation. A design they constructed from their own *righteous thinking*. God gave a simple and gory blood sacrifice of His Beloved Son to save them. Paul was not ashamed of God's simple solution to Man's Sin problem.

17 *For in it the righteousness of God is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."* In this letter to the Romans Paul proclaims the required faith to become a Christian, believing God raised Jesus after His sacrificial death. As (Romans 1.4) "...who was declared the Son of God with power by the Resurrection from the dead."

Romans 1.17 also makes it clear that the *power of salvation* begins its work in a sinner for re-birth then continues in him as a saint, *holy one*. This power must continue throughout ones life on Earth. God's continuing work in a Born Again Christian is from *faith to faith*, and the Born Again Christian will also do work, especially in his soul or heart, from *faith to faith*. But Jesus with us always carries the heavier side of our cross!!!

Experiential Christian life is what we are conscious of regarding Jesus being *with us* as we *live by faith*. Living by faith does not compete against experiences of God's Presence or powerful affects in our

everyday life. The testimonies of the Apostle Paul include his friends hearing the Jews plans to murder him, and lowering him in a basket over the wall at Damascus to escape in (Acts 9.24-25) We Christians call those experiences *Providence*. These may be great, as Paul's escape, or small, like praying for a parking space in a crowded city. What matters is *knowing* God heard you and He chose to act.

The tension of belief in God by believing His Word, the Bible, and experiencing Jesus personally in our lives is part of growing into maturity as a Christian. Living by *faith to faith* means trusting Jesus to be Lord of our life even when we don't experience His personal actions. God helps our faith to continue, but He sometimes tests us to see if we will chose to seek to stay close to Jesus when our experiences run against His Promises. Therefore, we can expect unique experiences with Jesus as we live from *faith to faith*; but we cannot demand them.

Another help in the meaning of V.17 is brought forth in the Older Testament reference:

BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. (Habakkuk 2.4). The reference here in the Older Testament is

“Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him;
But the righteous will live by his faith.

The WORD through Habakkuk warns of *pride* competing against living by faith. Pride in Satan led him to rebel to be above God, and thus there was war in Heaven, and Satan was thrown out of Heaven. He has much power on Earth as the “Prince of the power of the Air.” (Ephesians 2.2) He roams about earth looking to devour anyone not protected by Jesus. Pride in men, that is “*the proud one*” of Habakkuk, says “I am all set!” to this pastor when I share the Gospel in public. This *proud one* has a soul that is *not right* with God. He rejects the Gospel of Jesus that I just shared with him. He chooses to keep following his *lord, Satan*, in pride not needing God.

God requires Christians to make choices in their lifestyle and priorities to proactively live by the *gift of faith*. I must make it clear to you , that to JESUS, it's all about our making the *Living by Faith effort from our heart or inner being*, not our doing a good job at it. God knows how weak we are in the faith *we desire to live by*. As Paul was Timothy's *mentor, or sensei*, he taught him in (2 Timothy 2.13) - *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*

THEREFORE, Our *faith* must be in God, not in our *faith*.

UNBELIEF AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

This next section of Paul's Letter may be easily labeled as **Unbelief and Its Consequences** in the NASB, or , **God's Anger at Sin** in the NLT

R Romans 1.18 REVEALED – God has chosen to reveal salvation through His Son, Jesus. v.17 declares that God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. This faith is in God through Jesus Christ. Thus men partake in God's righteousness through faith in Jesus. The end times, or eschatological concept, of faith is seen in continuation , *faith to faith*. Thus there is a present revelation of God's Presence in those who live by faith, and finishing in Heaven in the next life (after death).

God has also revealed His wrath to Mankind. Men who reject the *gift of faith* will experience God's wrath in the present life, and in the next life (after death) *eternal Death* in the *Lake of Fire (Burning Sulfur)*.

(Rev.21.15)...and if anyone's name was not found in the Book of Life,he was thrown into the lake of fire.

It amazes me how people, even Christians, wonder why there are so many natural disasters resulting in Destruction and Death. **The Holy Bible and in Romans 1.18-32** tells us that these events are God's wrath to sinful Mankind. Paul confronts the Church at Rome with this truth about God's Character and Nature, and then relates that to Man's nature against God. We have seen His mercy shown to Mankind by the Gift of His Son, the Sacrifice to solve Man's Sin Problem -Separation from God. But this God who makes us **WHO BELIEVE FEEL WARM AND COMFORTED, also releases His anger at a world full of sin that does not BELIEVE.**

Even as a believer's life *living by faith* has an already in blessings from God through Jesus; the unbeliever's life has an already of God's judgment , GOD'S not being present; and a not yet, final of God' judgment , being cast into the lake of fire.

Some Old Testament History showing God's Judgments are in Deuteronomy 32.1-39. Here God gives a song to Moses for Israel with a warning to not return to idolatry as in Egypt as they enter Canaan, His glorious provision for His people:

In v.32 God reminds them of His Anger at Sin:

'See now that I, I am He,

And there is no god besides Me;

It is I who put to death and give life.

I have wounded and it is I who heal,

And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

There are no attributes, including Anger , in any Person of the Godhead, not in all Three Persons: FATHER-SON-HOLY SPIRIT. Jesus said *I and the Father are one.* (John 10.30) Therefore, JESUS is saying today as He said to Moses about 4,000 years ago:

It is I who put to death and give life.

I have wounded and it is I who heal,

This is the Age of Grace, as God withholds Final Judgment. So His kindness can be seen for the LOST to draw these sinners to Jesus. BUT *we forget Jesus will pass judgment on those who refuse to accept His Sacrifice for them with Eternal Destruction.*

Remember too that it is Jesus who will return to judge the world at the End of Time. The 'Age of Grace' will be over and God's Book for Salvation closed. We read in (Rev 19.11-12) :

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True,

for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. 12 His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head

were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

Christians!!!.... Jesus bought our salvation for in Romans 5:9 we are comforted to know---
*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the **wrath** of God through Him.* But most of the world continues to reject Jesus , God's Son. Some Christians are deceived by Satan to think the world having more active religions is a *good thing*. The Bible makes it clear that Religion invented by men without Christ is blatant idolatry against a Holy God. As the Bible declares in Acts 4.10-13

10 *let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead— by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11 He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which **we must be saved.***”

Again, a thousand years before Christ, Psalm 2 .10-12 declares this warning that safety is only available *in the Son.*

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;

Take warning, O judges of the earth.

11 Worship the LORD with reverence

And rejoice with trembling.

12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way,

For His wrath may soon be kindled.

How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

It is clear from these quotations in the Older Testament that Romans 2 should surprise no Jewish Believer, although the Gentiles were likely somewhat shocked at this revelation of the Judgment side of their new Lord, Jesus.

Part of this confusion not realizing that **God's desire, is not always , what He gets!** That is right. A few days ago my daughter, Therese, reminded me of this. Many things we expected here didn't happen, including having our pet cat, Scotty, with us. We expected him to be here to keep some *hometown feelings here with us.* Our love of our pet for 14 years did not in itself ,bring him with us. Similarly, God's love for Mankind, has not in itself brought all men along to be with Him.

In [2 Peter 3:9](#) we see:

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient **toward** you, not wishing for any to perish but for all **to come to repentance.***

God did not get what He wanted or desired! For the Bible tells us that *many will perish*, by their rejecting Christ. Many will not repent and will be judged by God. **GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS GET WHAT HE WANTS EITHER!**

verse.18. *Revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.* We must be aware of our tendency to “**judge God's wrath by our standards, not His.**” We Christians have *imputed righteousness through Christ*, but have little ability to comprehend the vastness and wickedness of SIN. It required God's Son's sacrifice on a Cross to take it away from us. How can we mortals measure the

fair and just payment on those who reject Jesus. God is angry at sin, in two categories here in verse 18: *ungodliness and unrighteousness*. Ungodliness means a lack of reverence, an impiety that arrays people against God, not just in neglect but also in rebellion.

Unrighteousness or wickedness means injustice, relating to the person's conduct toward other human beings. (EBC).

Let's look at some Scriptures describing GOD'S ANGER in Israel's History. The prophet Ezekiel speaks of the "heat" of God's Spirit, which is descriptive of his righteous anger against the Israelites for their sin ([Ezek 3:14](#)) **14** So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away; and I went embittered in the rage of my spirit, and the hand of the LORD was strong on me. The Hebrew word here is *kā'as* which denotes the idea of provoking one to anger and may be translated "to anger, irritate." (M&M) This term commonly conveys the anger of God against his people, usually for idolatry. Please note that relationship with His prophets causes His emotions to be shared inside of their souls. Ezekiel was embittered in the rage of His human spirit, not for any wrong of his, but God's emotions. God desires human beings He can trust to share His feelings. We are like that too. We are made in God's image and must remember that GOD HAS FEELINGS, TOO.

All parents experience *kā'as* when they are provoked to anger by disobedient children. In the same way, we {Christians} can provoke God to anger when we are lured away by sin and modern forms of idolatry.

BUT we must make a vital point that God's anger (ka-as) provoked by His children who acknowledge Him as God, is very little like His anger to those who refuse to acknowledge His existence, nor His Son's Sacrifice. Here in Romans we are seeing God's anger at those who are not His Children.

Verse.18 *...who suppress the Truth in unrighteousness* • This states that these are not only ignorant, although ignorance is never rewarded by salvation, but suppressed intentionally what they perceived as the truth from Heaven.

(Note- Hebrew traditional preaching which Paul knew best for this audience, puts general theology terms in the male of the species.) , thus *These men*

R. 19 -20 Here God tells us what we sensed from childhood. We exist in a wonderful universe made by our Creator. God also declares, that all people in all cultures have also sensed this TRUTH revealed by Nature. King David was inspired by Holy Spirit to write this Song in **Psalm 19**;

The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.

In them He has placed a tent for the sun,...

PSALM 19 & verse 19: *for God made it evident to them*

R.v.20 CREATION REQUIRES A CREATOR. The Bible tells us God didn't miss communicate this to children and men.

I grew up in an urban area, but spent many of my pre-teen years *Going Fishing* at ponds and lakes outside the city. My love of nature is strong. But even inside a city, *the Heavens are declaring the glory*

of God (Psalm 19.1) is apparent to all. I also became a typhoon watcher with a map on my wall to plot their tracking. Many hit Boston in the 1950's. This sense of power also thrills me in Thunderstorms and Tornadoes. My God is POWERFUL. I am so thankful that He revealed Jesus inside me so I will glory in His power *forever*. But Nature made me believe in GOD before I accepted CHRIST. If I had rejected CHRIST, this power that I was in awe of would be directed against me. I am confident in Jesus, but this thought awakes my soul to thanksgiving. So I can feel personally the statement here: *so that they are without excuse*.

Now the condemnations pile up, as God calls them out for their sins. We see this degradation in societies of the world as those people originating from Noah's Ark, who knew God, created idolatrous religions. They went from bad to worse and became the "Pagan" religions in following centuries of history: as explains in verses v 21-23 *..professing to be wise, they became fools, 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*.

R. 24-25 The results of total idolatry then became the release of men in their total depravity. The term *God gave them over* reveals that He had tried to push back their evil nature until they crossed over some limit of God's patience. *Serving the creature rather than the Creator* would be worshiping animals created by God, or images made of animals.

Now the Bible tells how homosexual sins began from sins of idolatry. In v.26 it says *God gave them over to homosexual passions...* both women and men. This is no choice of men, but God's judgment on Mankind in its *pagan revelry*. There is a *due penalty* of homosexual and degrading behavior. Bible students in this millennium will think of AIDS. The AIDS epidemic became worldwide through homosexuals. Once introduced, the virus is carried by heterogeneous sexual behavior as well. Besides physical diseases, true science reports homosexuals who act so *gay*, are frequently suicidal. Whatever penalty God prescribed, it was due to degrading behavior against nature, by a human made in the image of God.

NOTE: Romans is declaring Judgement for those who continue to reject God. Later in this Book, Paul will make it clear, as the old Hymn goes (Praise The LORD, Let The Earth Hear His Voice) the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. But we are reading the results of continuation of unbelief.

R.28. The original Greek : *they did not see fit to acknowledge Him any longer, so He saw fit to no longer acknowledge them*. It is obvious that even sinners have some influences by God to keep their inner depravity from destroying them from the inside. Now, God gives them over resulting in the *things that should never be done*. (NLT)

Paul now lists as inspired by Holy Spirit the list of behaviors resulting: *full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behaviour, and gossip. & v.30 backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful...invent new ways of sinning, disobey parents. v.31 refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.*

Now the sadness of their position against God becomes a place of not just sinners...but Anti-Christ:

Rv.32

They don't even have a chance to plead ignorance as some might. They KNOW what they are doing. They laugh at Judgment, deserve to die. Yet they do them anyhow and *make disciples to join their wicked team*. Recent news programs on American television media about the *GAY or LGBTQ* community reports *aggressive homosexuality* coercing minors into their camp. The scope of wickedness in all societies may be wider than this example. But the Devil's Children are being aggressive and not resting until they destroy more souls in America, and I am sure, here in Japan as well.

REVEALED SALVATION -The *faith to faith Promise from God* is that no matter how evil the world around us gets, we have our Salvation kept safe for us in Heaven. The final Chapter of our revelation unto Salvation, is that we will see Jesus. We persevere in our *faith to faith* knowing this FACT is TRUE.

REVEALED JUDGEMENT & REVEALED SALVATION are set side by side in 2 Thessalonians v.6-10

The final chapter to Christians living by *faith to faith* is seeing JESUS when He returns:

6 For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

These words in the Book of Romans should inspire us to , share Paul's burden, or obligation,for Lost Humanity. He knew these verses are true, and humanity is doomed unless sinners are given the Good News of Jesus. Paul was called for that, and so are we. These people without Christ , will be sent to everlasting flames, if they don't repent of sin and believe in Jesus. We must not make light of those choosing to continue rejecting Christ. We must pray for Jesus supernatural love for them to break through their hardened hearts. If we pray, God will give us opportunities to make a difference.

REFERENCES

(EBC) Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament Copyright 2004.

(M&M) [Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#), Copyright © 2006 by William D. Mounce

(NASB) New American Standard Bible 1995 THE LOCKMAN FOUNDATION

(NLT) *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation.