

# 'On Trial'

## Romans 1

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MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER GSX709

Sunday, March 7, 2021

*"I once heard of an agnostic farmer who wrote to the editor of his local newspaper, who was a Christian. He said; "In defiance of your God I plowed my fields this year on Sunday, I disked and fertilized them on Sunday, I planted them on a Sunday, I cultivated them on Sunday, and I reaped them on Sunday. This October I had the biggest crop I have ever had. How do you explain that?" The editor replied: "God does not always settle his accounts in October." (unknown)*

## Your Defense Attorney

**Romans 1:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, *"The just shall live by faith."*

**1 John 2:1-2** "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

### *The Elements of the Gospel*

- *Man is a sinner*
  - **Romans 3:23** "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- *God is Holy and must judge sin*
  - **Nahum 1:3** "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit *the wicked.*"
- *Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin*
  - **Romans 3:24-26** <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."
  - *We are saved from Condemnation/Eternal Punishment*
    - **John 3:18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

- *We are saved to Heaven*
  - **John 3:15** "...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"
  - **1 John 5:11** "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."
- *He is the Power* – of God unto salvation
  - To transform lives!
  - *Salvation* – "In the Roman world of Paul's day, men looked for salvation. Philosophers knew that man was sick and needed help. Epictetus called his lecture room "the hospital for the sick soul." Epicurus called his teaching "the medicine of salvation." Seneca said that because men were so conscious of "their weakness and their inefficiency in necessary things" that all men were looking "towards salvation." Epictetus said that men were looking for a peace "not of Caesar's proclamation, but of God's." (Barclay)
    - **Mark 2:10** "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."
    - **Acts 26:17-18** "<sup>17</sup> I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins..."
    - **1 Corinthians 1:18** "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
- *He is the Provision* – for everyone who believes
  - Warren Wiersbe says, "God doesn't ask men to behave in order to be saved but believe."
  - **Matthew 10:32-33** "<sup>32</sup> "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."
  - **Romans 10:9-10** "<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
- *He is the Perfection* –
  - *Righteousness* –
    - To be righteous doesn't mean to be good, it means to be in right standing.
    - Right standing before God cannot be achieved by being good or by keeping the law!

- **Romans 3:20** “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”
- **Galatians 3:11** “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”
- **Hebrews 5:9** “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...”

## The Charges

**Romans 1:18-21** <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

- **The Wrath of God against all sin and those that suppress the truth!**
  - **Psalm 7:11** “God *is* a just judge, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day.”
  - **Romans 2:5-6** “...in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who “*will render to each one according to his deeds.*”
  - **Ephesians 5:3-7** <sup>3</sup> But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup> neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them.”
  - **1 Peter 4:3-4** <sup>3</sup> For we *have spent* enough of our past <sup>2</sup>lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup> In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you.*”

## Court is now in session!

- The theme of Romans is the righteousness of God, so it begins with the unrighteousness of man.
- **Ungodliness** –
  - Refers to man’s offenses against God.

*Here's a real-time example of that.*

*Rep. Greg Steube, R-Fla., criticized the Equality Act during the House debate, saying it violates Christian beliefs.*

*"The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design," he said. "Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences."*

*Leaning into the constitutional separation of church and state, Nadler pushed back.*

*"Mr. Steube, what any religious tradition describes as God's will is no concern of this Congress," he said.*

- **Unrighteousness** –
  - Refers to man's sins against man.
- **Suppress** – to prevent, to hinder, to restrain, to keep from being known.
  - The fool is constantly trying to convince himself there is no God.
    - **Psalm 14:1** "The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good."
  - God's wrath is against all those that suppress the truth.
    - Think about the moderators of what is true in the tech world. Think about all the college professors suppressing the truth in unrighteousness, they are incurring the wrath of God Almighty.
- **Manifest** – clear, evident.
  - **Psalm 19:1-4** "<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.* <sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."
  - **Isaiah 40:21** "Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?"
  - Where is it manifest?
    - In them!

- If you want to know if an atheist is really about the truth ask them this from Dr. Frank Turek *“If Christianity were true, would you be a Christian?”*
      - If they say no, you know they aren’t interested in the truth.
  - Why won’t the unbelieving world come to Jesus? Is it because there isn’t proof?
    - *Sin*
      - **John 3:20** “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”
    - *Disbelief*
      - **John 3:18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
- Since they willfully suppress the truth that is clearly manifest in them, they are without excuse.
- They knew and know He is God but reject Him as God.
- ***Rebellion starts in the brain and works itself out in our behavior.***

## The Evidence

**Romans 1:22-25** <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

- *Professing to be wise* –
  - Make a claim or to assert something. They are self-proclaimed to be wise but according to God are fools.
    - **1 Corinthians 3:18-19** <sup>18</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”
- Man was created to worship God, but when man rejects God, he replaces the worship of God with the image of his choosing.

## The Consequences

**Romans 1:26-32** <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. <sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

- ***As I stated earlier, rebellion starts in the brain and works itself out in our behavior.***
    - *The result of that is their mind is affected.*
    - *They are given over to a debased mind.*
  - ***Debased*** – a mind that cannot form right judgments.
    - *They become spiritually insane!*
    - *They make up their own illogical truths.*
      - *One major example is that of evolution.*
  - ***To do those things which are not fitting*** –
    - Then Paul gives a list of ‘those’ things.
  - **Galatians 6:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
1. ***Recognize*** you are a Sinner
    - a. **Romans 3:23** “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
  2. ***Realize*** that Jesus died for you
    - a. **Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
  3. ***Repent*** from your sin
    - a. **Acts 3:19** “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,..”
  4. ***Receive*** Jesus
    - a. **John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

**Romans 10:9-11** “<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

*There’s a story about a small boy who was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing. At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water. He looked at his father's full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed.*

*The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son. When that boy grew to be a man, he said, "All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night."*