

ROMANS

PART I: THE PROBLEM

Paul's Thesis in Romans:

In the Gospel of Jesus
we receive the
RIGHTEOUSNESS
of God.

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First Question:

**Why do I need to
receive righteousness
from God?**

Romans 1:18-3:20

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***"There's somethin' wrong with the world today
I don't know what it is
Something's wrong with our eyes
We're seein' things in a different way
And God knows it ain't his
It sure ain't no surprise
We're livin' on the edge
You can't help yourself from falling."***

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The background of the image is a dramatic, overcast sky with heavy, grey clouds. Numerous birds are seen in flight, scattered across the sky. In the foreground, the tops of two stone ruins are visible on the left and right sides, framing the central text. The ruins are made of rough, layered stone blocks.

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THE GRAVITY OF THE FALL

Reason #1

**We exchange the truth
about God for a lie.**

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Romans 1:18-21

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.

Romans 1:18-21

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.

What is the WRATH of God?

**God's settled, fair and righteous
disposition toward sinful
humanity.**

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“What would really satisfy us would be a God who said of anything we happened to like doing, 'What does it matter so long as they are contented?' We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven—a senile benevolence who, as they say, 'liked to see young people enjoying themselves' and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, 'a good time was had by all'.”

C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

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Reason #1

**We exchange the truth
about God for a lie.**

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SKEPTICAL

HOW CAN WE BELIEVE IN GOD
IF THERE ISN'T ANY PROOF?



Two Evidences of God's Revelation to Mankind:

**v.20 Eternal Power and
Divine Nature**

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“How could a cosmic accident ever result in something of this digital elegance of a DNA strand? It’s like thinking an explosion in an ink factory could inadvertently produce the collected works of Shakespeare.”

Francis Collins

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Two Evidences of God's Revelation to Mankind:

**v.20 Eternal Power and
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“In the Western world we’ve been told that only stupid people believe in Christianity. But as a matter of fact, it’s atheism that is a dry, lifeless creed and totally irrational. Atheism says that we’re just a collection of chemicals. It has no answer whatsoever to the question of how this animated sack of accidental chemicals could be capable of love or heroism or poetry.”

-A.N. Wilson

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Reason #1

**We exchange the truth
about God for a lie.**

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Reason #2

**We exchange worship of
God for worship of idols.**

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Romans 1:22-23, 25-26

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.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.

“In the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some a god is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.”

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"If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you."

-David Foster Wallace

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Reason #3

**We exchange obedience
to God for obedience to
our desires.**

Romans 1:24, 26-32

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

Romans 1:24, 26-32

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.

Romans 1:24, 26-32

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.

Romans 1:24, 26-32

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.

**“God gave them
over.”**

verse 24, 26, 28

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“Epithumia” Over-desires

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Outworking of Idolatry: Sexual Disorder

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SKEPTICAL

WHY DO CHRISTIANS SEEM HOMOPHOBIC?



Outworking of Idolatry: Sexual Disorder Economic Disorder

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Outworking of Idolatry:

Sexual Disorder

Economic Disorder

Social Disorder

Outworking of Idolatry:

Sexual Disorder

Economic Disorder

Social Disorder

Relational Disorder

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Matthew 20:17-19

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be DELIVERED OVER to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will HAND HIM OVER to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

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**Only the Gospel has the
POWER to break the fall!**

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