

Romans

Bible Class 2

The World Is Condemned By Sin
Romans 1:18-3:20

Introduction and Theme

1. Some false teachings to be exposed and refuted
2. Some points about the letter
3. Salutation Rom 1:1-7
4. Occasion for writing Rom 1:8-15
5. Theme – The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe Rom 1:16-17

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Introduction

- The gospel is God's only plan to save all who believe in Jesus from sin
- In Romans 1:18-3:20, Paul explains why people need the gospel, the world is lost in sin, violation of God's law
- Because God is just, He will execute His wrath against sin
- How did Gentiles and Jews become sinners?

3

Introduction

- Unless we are convinced of being sinners, condemned before God facing His wrath against sin, we will never see our need for His gospel to save us
- Romans 1:18-3:20 shows that people are lost unless they hear and obey the gospel
- Our society, like the Roman world, seeks to either redefine or completely deny sin, rejecting God's law and also salvation through Jesus

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Introduction

- If we are going to be saved by the gospel, we must first admit we are sinners before God, by our own choice, not because we were born that way
- Unless we humbly turn to the loving, merciful God who can save us through the gospel, we remain lost in our sins, condemned by God who will execute His righteous wrath against all sin

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The World Is Condemned By Sin

1. The Gentiles have sinned Rom 1:18-32
2. The Jews have sinned Rom 2:1-3:8
3. All have sinned Rom 3:9-20

6

Ungodly (Irreverent) and Unrighteous (Unjust) Men Suppressing The Truth of God

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

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Ungodly (Irreverent) and Unrighteous (Unjust) Men Suppressing The Truth of God

1. Rom 3:18
2. Rom 1:32

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Christians Must Display Reverence For God

1. Heb 12:25-29
2. Heb 5:7
3. Heb 11:7

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

- From Creation, God has revealed Himself to be One possessing eternal power, creating things according to His designed purposes including man, in His own image
- Whatever limited knowledge of God the Gentiles could gain was enough to cause them to understand their need to seek, honor and submit to God

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

- Instead, they turned from what they knew about God to follow their own wisdom leading to idolatry and immorality
- At least two times in human history, all humanity knew the will of God, after Creation before the Fall of Adam and after the Flood in the time of Noah
- Yet, the Gentiles fail to live up to whatever knowledge they had about God

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

- The Divine nature, Godhead, reveals three that have the qualities of God and worked together in Creation
- All things created must have a Creator
- Either the Creator is temporary or eternal
- The complexity of the universe, the earth, plants, animals, the human mind and body indicate a Divine designer behind it all

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

- To deny God is Creator is the greatest folly!
- To deny God as Creator means unintelligent material matter is eternal!
- To deny God as Creator means matter would have to be eternal

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God's Wrath Power and Divine Nature Made Known To Man

1. Act 17:29, Col 2:9, Mat 28:18-20
2. Gen 1:1-2, 26-27
3. Joh 1:1-3, 14
4. Col 1:15-18
5. Psa 19:1-6
6. Psa 14:1
7. Act 14:8-17
8. Act 17:22-31

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Greatness of The Universe

- The Sun just one of 100 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy
- Estimated 100 billion galaxies in the observable Universe
- Our galaxy approximately 100,000 light years wide
- Each light year is six billion miles
- Average distance between galaxies is ten million light years

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By God's Word The Universe Is Being Upheld

- By God's Word, the law of gravity holds all things together on the earth
- By God's Word, the earth revolves around the sun at 18 miles per second
- By God's Word, the earth rotates on its axis at 1,000 miles per hour
- All planets, stars and all elements of Creation are all upheld by the power of God's Word

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Man Rejected God and Turned To Idolatry

Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

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Man Rejected God and Turned To Idolatry

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 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.

19

Man Rejected God and Turned To Idolatry

- Knowing God but turning from Him, they dishonored Him and were unthankful
- They denied God as Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of the universe including over all humanity
- They (and we) do not glorify God when we fail to seek and obey Him according to His authority

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Man Rejected God and Turned To Idolatry

- But, created by God to worship, man created his own gods based on his own sinful wisdom resulting in unrighteousness
- When we deny God as Creator and Authority over all, we lose a firm and true starting point for our spiritual and moral direction, we lose our reasoning about what is right and wrong
- Without God, right and wrong becomes relative, changeable

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Man Rejected God and Turned To Idolatry

1. Joh 17:4
2. Isa 41:21-24
3. Isa 44:9-20

22

God Gave Them Over To Sexual Impurity Including Homosexuality

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

Rom 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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God Gave Them Over To Sexual Impurity Including Homosexuality

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

Rom 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

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God Gave Them Over To Sexual Impurity Including Homosexuality

- God created us with free will so we can choose either to serve or reject Him
- When they choose to reject Him, He allowed them to follow their idolatrous lies and suffer the consequences of the sins that must follow
- This describes our society today
- And, like the Gentiles of old, our only hope to be saved is the gospel

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God Gave Them Over To Sexual Impurity Including Homosexuality

1. 2Th 2:10-12
2. Gal 6:7-8
3. Heb 13:4
4. Gen 19:4-10, 24-25
5. Lev 20:13
6. 1Co 6:9-11, 18-7:2

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God Gave Them Over To A Depraved Mind To Do Those Things Not Proper

Rom 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

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God Gave Them Over To A Depraved Mind To Do Those Things Not Proper

Rom 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

Rom 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

Rom 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

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The Jews Have Sinned

- Now, Paul turns to the Jews who believed because they had been given circumcision and the Law of Moses, they were superior to the Gentiles and would not be condemned by sin
- But, the Law of Moses served to highlight the sins of the Jews who failed to keep it
- They were condemned by the Law and in need of the gospel to be saved

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The Jews Have Sinned

- We too can learn from the condemnation of the Jews
- Just because we have been baptized into Christ, claim that we follow the apostles' teaching, study and have knowledge of it, does not mean we are justified before God

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The Jews Have Sinned

- Only, by the grace and mercy of God through Jesus, can we be saved
- Having been freed from sin, we must become slaves of righteousness

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Guilty Judges Judging The Guilty Will Be Judged

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Rom 2:2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

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Jesus Warns Against Sinful Judging

1. Mat 7:1-5
2. Joh 7:23-24

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Rom 2:6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

Rom 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

Rom 2:9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

Rom 2:12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

Rom 2:14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

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No One Will Escape The Impartial Judgment of God

Rom 2:15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Rom 2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

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We Can Only Be Saved By Grace Through Faith

1. Eph 2:8-10
2. Tit 2:11-14
3. 1Jo 1:5-2:2

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The Jews Sought To Teach Others But Not Themselves

Rom 2:17 But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God,

Rom 2:18 and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,

Rom 2:19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

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The Jews Sought To Teach Others But Not Themselves

Rom 2:20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,

Rom 2:21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

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The Jews Sought To Teach Others But Not Themselves

Rom 2:22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

Rom 2:23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

Rom 2:24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

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We Must Always Teach Ourselves First Before Others

1. 1Ti 4:12-16
2. Tit 2:1-10

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The True Jew Is Circumcised In The Heart

Rom 2:25 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

Rom 2:26 So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?

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The True Jew Is Circumcised In The Heart

Rom 2:27 And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law?

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

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The True Jew Is Circumcised In The Heart

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

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The True Jew Is Circumcised In The Heart

1. Gen 17:11-14
2. Deu 10:12-17

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We Too Must Be Circumcised In The Heart

1. Col 2:11-14
2. Rom 6:1-4, 17-18

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The Jews' Advantage

Rom 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?
Rom 3:2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

See also Gal. 3:23-25

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God Is Faithful In Spite of the Jews' Unbelief

Rom 3:3 What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?

Rom 3:4 May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."

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If God Cannot Judge The Jews Who Have Sinned How Can He Judge The World?

Rom 3:5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)

Rom 3:6 May it never be! For otherwise, how will God judge the world?

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Being Saved By Grace Does Not Mean We Have License To Sin

Rom 3:7 But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner?

Rom 3:8 And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"? Their condemnation is just.

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The Law of Moses Confirms All Have Sinned

Rom 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

Rom 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Rom 3:11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

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The Law of Moses Confirms All Have Sinned

1. Luk 11:52
2. Luk 16:14-15
3. Joh 5:39-47
4. Joh 12:42-43

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The Law of Moses Confirms All Have Sinned

Rom 3:12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

Rom 3:13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

Rom 3:14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

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The Law of Moses Confirms All Have Sinned

Rom 3:15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

Rom 3:16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

Rom 3:17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

Rom 3:18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

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No One Can Be Justified By The Law of Moses

Rom 3:19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

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No One Can Be Justified By The Law of Moses

- Neither Gentiles nor Jews could be justified by the laws under which they lived
- The Gentiles following the law written on their hearts plunged into idolatry and immorality
- The Jews, failing to understand and obey the Law of Moses, stand condemned by that very Law, their sin written large in the Scriptures

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No One Can Be Justified By The Law of Moses

- Flawless obedience to the Law was the only way to be justified by the Law before God
- Unless, God brought forth a plan by which sinners could be made righteous in His sight, there was no hope in the world
- God's plan of salvation for all would come through Jesus enabling God to be just and the justifier of those who have faith in Jesus

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No One Can Be Justified By The Law of Moses

1. Gal 2:16
2. Gal 3:10-16

The World Is Condemned By Sin

1. The Gentiles have sinned Rom 1:18-32
2. The Jews have sinned Rom 2:1-3:8
3. All have sinned Rom 3:9-20