

Paul the Apostle's letter to the Romans

Talk 1 : Sunday 2nd September 2012

Paul's letter to the Romans

- Paul wrote his letter to Romans **before** he visited him and is longest letter in the New Testament written approx AD 55
- First lets look at how Scripture penetrates deep down within us
- ¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Lets Pray adapting the words of Paul to Ephesians for revelation
- I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give *us* the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know him better *through this study*.
- ¹⁸ We pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened *by this study* in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, Amen

Events from creation to the letter to Romans

- Adam and Eve in their “free will” choice opted for the tree of knowledge of good and evil (doing their own thing) rather than the tree of life (Jesus, the way , truth and The Life)
- Sin escalated in the world, gets worse with time and generations, sin is like the cancer of the soul
- The Flood was God’s sentence on that generation
- God called Abraham & one nation Israel to establish a new relationship with God and to deal with sin through sacrifice.
- God sent Jesus His Son to die as sacrifice for sin.
- Paul explains to the Romans in first 8 chapters of letter
 - The Gospel
 - The explanation of sin and law and how sin is dealt with through death.
 - Our new resurrection life by the Spirit of God and the walk by the Spirit.

Righteousness revealed

- **The Gospel** Romans 1;1 & v 16 - 17
- **Wrath of God** Romans 1 ; 18 – 32
- **Don't judge each other** Romans 2 ; 1 – 4
- **Day of wrath & the Gospel** Romans 2; 5 – 11 & v 14 - 16
- Righteousness. "Justice" of God is simple explanation
- In the Bible generally "righteousness" does not mean the lack of sin or perfect.
- It means faithfulness to the covenant. God is "righteous" because He is faithful to the covenant He has made.
- People are "righteous" because, despite all their failings (i.e the Prodigal Son who has returned to the Father and Father put best robe on him), the general tenor of their lives is faithfulness to the covenant God has made with them. They are in right standing with God

The Gospel

- Gospel = evangelion = announcement dramatic NEWS
- ¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son,
- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to **everyone who believes**: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
- ¹⁷ For in the gospel **the righteousness of God is revealed**—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith”

God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity

- 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.
- 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.
- Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

The wrath of God continued

- 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.
- 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.
- ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 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.

The wrath of God continued

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Wrath of God

- “Wrath” of God is the
 1. righteous judgement
 2. judges sentence
- It is punishment for sin
- Revealed from “heaven” to the universe even to those who have not been reached by the gospel.

Sin or activity

- godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth
- Since creation, God 's power and divine nature has been clearly seen because God has made it plain to them...
- People who knew God did not glorify Him or give thanks to Him
- exchanged God's immortal glory for images of mortal people and birds and animals and reptiles

and it's consequence

- The wrath of God **is** being revealed from Heaven against..
(*is being revealed = present tense = happening now*)
- People are without excuse
- ..their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened, they became fools
- God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

sin

- They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

& consequences cont'd

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- ²⁷ ..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

Sin

- Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,

Consequence

- so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.
- 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.

Sin

- Althoughthey not only continue to do these very things..(sin) but also approve of those who practice them.

Result :Hellbent

- they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death,

Do not judge

- ¹ **You**, therefore, have no excuse, **you** who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point **you** judge another, **you** are condemning yourself, because **you** who pass judgment do the same things.
- ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.
- ³ So when **you**, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, **do you think you will escape God's judgment?**
- Or do **you** show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead **you** to repentance?

What happens on the day of wrath

- But because of **your** stubbornness and **your unrepentant** heart, **you** are **storing up wrath** against yourself **for the day of God's wrath**, when His righteous **judgment** will be revealed.
- ⁶ God “will repay **each person** according to what they have done.” ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.
- ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;
- ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

Why we should not judge each other

- **1 Samuel 16:7**
- ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD* does not see as man sees;^[a] **for man looks at the outward appearance**, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:10**
For **we must all appear** before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each of us** may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

What is judging!!

- God does not want us to judge each other in the church
- In the Church, we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord
- It is not appropriate to be judging each other as either better or worse than ourselves
- We tend to look at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart
- God accepts us in the church, we must accept each other
- More than anything else , we will all have to face the judgement seat of Christ, therefore it is not right that we as individuals would judge each other.

Is the Gospel connected to the day of God's judgement , the day of wrath??

- Romans 2 : 16
- ¹⁶ This will take place **on the day** when **God judges** people's secrets through Jesus Christ, **as my gospel** declares
- *What does Paul say will happen then ??*
- ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles (who have not heard about Jesus,) who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

So what have we covered today ?, imagine that it is St Paul's letter to Healing Streams and this is first time we have read the letter !!

- NEWS The Gospel
- NEWS Wrath of God
- NEWS Don't judge each other
- NEWS Day of judgement and the Gospel
- Gospel Sandwich
- Gospel sandwiches
both the good news of salvation and the wrath and judgement of God

WORLD

Gospel lifeboats stay close to the sinking ship



Gospel lifeboats with Christians to assist the passengers escape from sinking ship



Christians in the world but not of the ship (world)



WORLD SYSTEMS JUDGED & SINKING



conclusion

- God is revealing His righteousness in us
- God's good news gospel means salvation for **everyone who believes in Jesus as the Saviour.**
- The wrath and punishment of God is **now** being dispensed to people in the world who ignore God
- As Christians we are not to judge each other in the church
- Let us repent of any wrong behaviour or attitudes because we Christians without exception will face the judgement seat of Christ to give an account of our life as Christians