



Living Righteously In An Ungodly Age

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18).

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“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even **as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;** 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:22).

same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” (Romans 1:18-32).

Introduction

Beloved, the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans opens with the majestic declaration that **“the just shall live by faith”** (Romans 1:17). But immediately thereafter, he presents a solemn warning:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.” — Romans 1:18

This passage, Romans 1:18–32, is one of the most sobering portions of Scripture. It reveals the downward spiral of humanity when men and women reject God — when they choose darkness over light, and sin over truth. Paul’s key admonition is **Turning from the corruption of this world unto the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus.**

It speaks not only of ancient Rome but of our modern world — a society that has, in many ways, repeated the very sins that Paul condemned.

In this study, we shall examine:

1. **The revelation of God’s wrath.**
2. **The reason for God’s wrath.**
3. **The remedy from God’s wrath.**

And we shall see what both **Christians** and **non-Christians** must do to escape divine wrath / eternal damnation and live victoriously in Christ in these perilous times.

1. The Revelation of God’s Wrath (Romans 1:18–20)

Paul declares that God’s wrath is not merely a

future judgment, but it is even now “*revealed from heaven*” — in the corruption, confusion, and chaos of our world.

- When we see truth being twisted into lies...
- When we see moral boundaries erased...
- When natural affections are perverted...
- When nations glorify sin and mock righteousness...

— these are signs of divine displeasure.

For God has made Himself known through His creation. As verse 20 says:

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen... so that they are without excuse.”

Lesson for All Humanity:

God’s existence and moral law are evident. To deny Him is not intellectual sophistication — it is spiritual blindness. Both **Christians and non-Christians** must acknowledge that we live in God’s world, under His authority, and will one day stand before His judgment seat.

2. The Reason for God’s Wrath (Romans 1:21–32)

Paul then traces the *progression of sin* — how mankind, having known God, chose to reject Him. Notice the stages:

- **Ingratitude:**
“When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful.” (v. 21)
The first step away from God is unthankfulness. **A proud heart forgets its Creator.**
- **Idolatry:**
“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image.” (v. 23) People began to worship creation rather than the Creator — wealth, pleasure, fame, self.
- **Immorality:**
“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness.” (v. 24) When man forsakes God, he soon loses moral restraint. Sexual impurity, perversion, and debauchery become rampant — as we see today.
- **Depravity:**
“God gave them over to a reprobate mind.” (v. 28) The conscience becomes seared. Evil is celebrated as good, and good is condemned as evil.

Paul lists the fruits of this spiritual decay in verses 29–31:

- 1) Being filled with all unrighteousness,
- 2) fornication,
- 3) wickedness,
- 4) covetousness,
- 5) Maliciousness—the fact or quality of being spiteful or intentionally harmful.
- 6) full of envy,
- 7) murder,
- 8) debate,
- 9) deceit,
- 10) Malignity—the quality of intending to cause harm.
- 11) whisperers,
- 12) 30 Backbiters,
- 13) haters of God,
- 14) spiteful,
- 15) proud,
- 16) boasters,
- 17) inventors of evil things,
- 18) disobedient to parents,
- 19) 31 Without understanding,
- 20) Covenant-breakers,
- 21) without natural affection,
- 22) Implacable—unappeasable, unforgiving
- 23) unmerciful

It is a picture not only of the ancient world but of **our contemporary society** — where sin is paraded, where entertainment glorifies lust and violence, where truth is subjective, and where even some who call themselves Christians compromise the holiness of God.

3. The Remedy from God’s Wrath

Beloved, the good news is that there is a way of escape. The same God who reveals His wrath also reveals His **righteousness through the Gospel**.

(a) For the Non-Christian:

- **Acknowledge your sin** before God. Denial brings damnation; confession brings deliverance.
- **Repent and believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ. Only His blood can cleanse the guilty soul.
- **Receive the Holy Spirit**, who renews the heart and empowers a new way of living.

As Romans 3:23–24 says:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

(b) For the Christian:

- **Guard against compromise.** The world's values are seductive, but friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4).
- **Walk in holiness and gratitude.** Give God glory daily. Let your life be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
- **Be a light in the darkness.** Proclaim truth with love. Stand firm even when mocked.
- **Renew your mind by the Word.** **Do not be shaped by culture, but by Scripture.**
- **Pray without ceasing.** Spiritual victory comes through communion with God.

4. Practical Steps to Overcome the Evils of Our Times

1. **Return to the Word:** Make Scripture your daily compass. Read, meditate, and obey. **Let every opinion and action be tested by the Word of God.**
2. **Cultivate Gratitude:** Thankfulness keeps the heart humble and guards against pride and rebellion.
3. **Keep Holy Company:** Fellowship with godly believers who will challenge and strengthen your faith.
4. **Discipline the Flesh:** Fast periodically. Guard your eyes and ears from corrupt media. Flee temptation.
5. **Preach and Practise Righteousness:** Do not only speak of holiness — live it. **Let others see Christ in you.**
6. **Intercede for the World:** Pray for revival in the Church and repentance in the nations. **The remedy for darkness is light — and you are that light.**

Conclusion

Romans 1 is both a warning and a call to repentance. God's wrath is real, but so is His mercy.

If we humble ourselves, confess our sins, and turn wholly to Christ, we shall escape the coming judgment and live victoriously, reflecting His glory in this fallen world.

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." — Romans

12:21

Let us, therefore, live as a redeemed people — holy, grateful, and courageous — advancing the Kingdom of God until our Lord returns in glory.

Closing Prayer

"O Lord, our righteous Judge and merciful Saviour, deliver us from the snares of sin and the spirit of this age. Give us hearts that love truth, minds renewed by Thy Word, and lives filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. Let us shine as lights in this dark world, drawing others to Thee, until the day of Thy appearing. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."