

# Romans

SERMON SERIES

What is the main point of Romans?

Popular Question:

*“How can a loving God send anyone to hell?”*

Paul’s Question:

*“How can a just God allow anyone in heaven?”*

**Three Weeks Ago:**  
*“The Wrath of God”*  
Romans 1:18-32

Two Weeks Ago:  
*“The Great Exchange”*  
Romans 1:21-25

**Last Week's Sermon:**  
*“Natural for Unnatural”*  
Romans 1:26-31

# Romans 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

# Romans 1:18-31

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

# Romans 1:18-31

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;



# Romans 1:18-31

<sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

# Romans 1:18-31

<sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,  
<sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

**This Week's Sermon:**  
*'Law of God*  
Romans 1:32

## Romans 1:32

<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

**They Know**

## Romans 1:32

<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

## Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

## Genesis 3:1-7

<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.



“C. S. Lewis observes that a parent’s love for a child acts in order to eliminate the child’s need for the parent.

God’s love, in contrast, is not optimized in his becoming superfluous but in our becoming dependent on him in continually maturing ways. God offered nothing less to Adam and Eve than the privilege of freedom and the joy of dependence. Our society treats this as an oxymoron and labels God a tyrant. In rejecting dependence on God (though in no way escaping from it) people choose far more costly dependency – on themselves and their own resources. In seeking autonomy, freedom, and power, they only forge new chains.” ~ John Walton, NIV Com GN, pg. 217

## Genesis 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”

**We expect others to obey our laws**

**We expect others to obey our laws**

# **56 Rules for How to Behave in the Twin Cities**

**<https://racketmn.com/56-rules-for-how-to-behave-in-the-twin-cities/>**

**We expect others to obey our laws**

**2. Ain't nothing wrong with a little small talk about the weather.**

Look, we have a lot of weather in this state. And sometimes you will be in a social situation where the only thing you can be sure you have in common with the other person is human skin that responds in similar ways to heat and cold and water that falls from the sky. So make the best of it! Learn to enjoy saying [stuff] like “Sure is a hot one” and “We could use some rain though” without shame. (BUT see rule #50 below.)

**We expect others to obey our laws**

**“If it’s not hurting anyone, let me be”**

# Gospel Application

*What little 'l' laws do we place on others or ourselves?*

**God's Writing = Death**



## Romans 1:32

<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

## Exodus 32:15-16

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. <sup>16</sup> The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

## Daniel 5:1-6

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

## Daniel 5:1-6

<sup>4</sup> They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. <sup>6</sup> Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

## Daniel 5:24-28

<sup>24</sup> “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. <sup>25</sup> And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. <sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; <sup>27</sup> Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; <sup>28</sup> Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

**God's Writing = Death, until Jesus**

## John 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

# Full of Death



## Romans 1:32

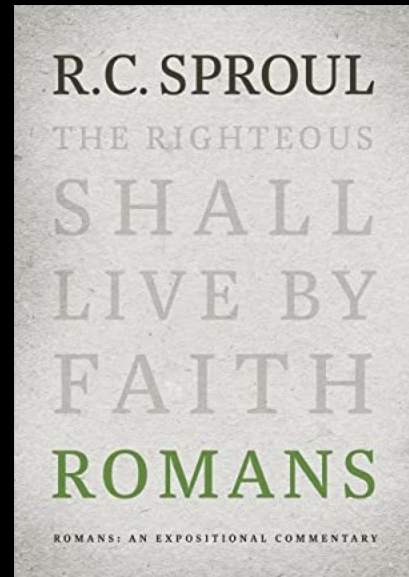
<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

# Approval of Sin

## Romans 1:32

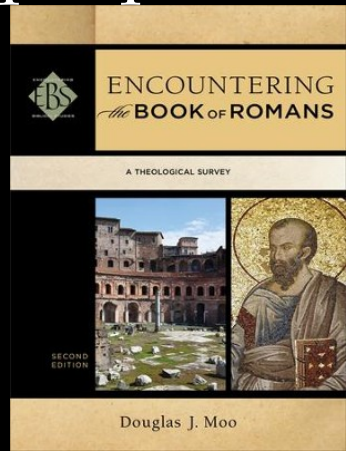
<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Charles Hodge comments that 'to take pleasure in those who do good, makes us better; to delight in those who do evil is the surest way to become even more degraded than they are themselves.' It is fair to say that it shows a greater depravity to encourage others' sin than to commit the sin yourself.



Sproul, R. C. (1994). *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (p. 46). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.

Paul goes further. His 'not only...but also' construction implies that he views those who approve of sinners as worse than the sinners themselves. Paul is not minimizing the seriousness of sin. He is implying that people who label sin as good or natural or noble are doing great damage to the morals of society, for eventually it becomes acceptable behavior and people are no longer conscious of their sin.



Grace

## Romans 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

# Gospel Application

*Do we approve of other's sins?*



# Gospel Application

*Do we approve of other's sins?*

*Believe the Power of God for Salvation - Gospel*