

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

"We Need the Lord!!!" - by Bro. Lamar Powell

Romans 1:16-32

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED: vs. 16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

These are the key verses in The Book of Romans.

It is all about the Gospel of Christ: he death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

It is the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation.

The Gospel of Christ is available to ALL men.

Receiving the Gospel of Christ brings about the application of the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD** to one's life.

It is a RIGHTEOUSNESS we cannot achieve ourselves.

We are saved by FAITH.

We are to live by FAITH.

The WRATH OF GOD REVEALED: vs. 18-20

18 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:

The word "for" meaning "because of" pointing back to verse 17

the righteousness of God revealed - vs. 17

the wrath of God revealed - vs. 18

We need God's righteousness because of our own ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Ungodliness: deals with our relationship with God

Unrighteousness: deals with our relationship with man

right conduct towards vs. Our fleshly nature or animalistic nature.

God's love, mercy, and grace are available. Absent these results in God's wrath.

God's wrath: how He feels or views ungodliness and unrighteousness

Revealed: clearly seen or viewed

God's wrath is the result of how men deal with the TRUTH of God.

God's wrath is the result of how men handle the KNOWLEDGE of God.

God has revealed Himself IN US: in the heart of man! (see vs. 19)

Manifest: to shine forth, to bring to light, openly and outwardly.

Where? "in them". In man's heart and conscience.

God puts something in you, in all of us, about Him!

God has revealed Himself AROUND US: in creation! (see vs. 20)

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:

Creation declares the Creator!!!

There are some things about God that we cannot see at this time.

But through creation we can CLEARLY SEE and UNDERSTAND that God exists!

Clearly seen: to behold fully, to distinctly apprehend

Understood: to comprehend, to exercise the mind, intellectually honest

But through creation we can CLEARLY SEE His POWER.

But through creation we can CLEARLY SEE the GODHEAD (Nature, Deity)

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

Isaiah 40:25-26 *To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.*

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

John 1:3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Acts 17:23-30

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of

their habitation; 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Romans 1:20 *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.*

To know Him should result in GLORIFYING HIM!

To know Him should result in being THANKFUL to Him!

What a blessing it is to have KNOWLEDGE of the Living God of Heaven!

Philippians 3:7-10 *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Ephesians 3:17-20 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

To know Him should result in GLORIFYING HIM!

To know Him should result in being THANKFUL to Him!

THE RESULTS OF REJECTING GOD

Romans 1:21-32

Knowing God is going to result in a **POSITIVE** response:

Give God **GLORY**

to render or esteem as being glorious

Glory = opinion that affects one's view and actions

Give God **THANKS**

to render from the heart gratitude

Gratitude recognizes the gift and the giver

Rejecting God is going to result in a **NEGATIVE** response:

Affects one's mind - vs. 21

Imagination - thinking, reasoning, consideration

Vain - empty, to render foolish, wicked,

Affects one's heart - vs. 21

Heart - becomes foolish and darkened

Darken - to obscure, block the light that allows us to see

2 Corinthians 4:4 - *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Affects one's wisdom - vs. 22

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

There is a cry for wisdom

Proverbs 1:20-21 *Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: 21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words...*

Man needs the Wisdom of God

Proverbs 2:6 *"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."*

Proverbs 9:10 *"The fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom"*

Affects one's view of the true and living God - vs. 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.

Man through his own wisdom (foolishness) CHANGED

The GLORY of the UNCORRUPTIBLE God

God is eternal - not bound by time

God is omnipotent - all powerful

God is omniscience - all knowing

God is omnipresent - everywhere present

God is Holy, Holy, Holy

He is not created - He is the Creator

Into an IMAGE made like CORRUPTIBLE man

In the last verses of chapter one we have a description of man being left to himself, his own wisdom, and his own folly...apart from God.

The words: GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP - vs. 24, 26, and 28

Meaning - to deliver to oneself

There is a restraining power with God. He helps us with our folly like a loving parent but there comes a point God will leave man to himself.

AFFECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL

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.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor. 6:19

Sin has an effect on the body

AFFECT ON THE HOME AND FAMILY

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.

AFFECT ON OUR COMMUNITY / SOCIETY / NATION

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, spiteful, 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 same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

ALL BECAUSE OF MAN'S WISDOM AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO REJECT THE GOD OF HEAVEN.

What I want you to understand today is:

We need the Lord!!

I need Him.

My family needs Him.

Our church needs Him.

Our community needs Him.

Our State needs Him.

Our Nation needs Him.

Our decline is the result of us thinking and acting as if we do not need the Lord!!!

Our decline is the result of us thinking and acting as if we know better than the Lord!!!