

**Parson to Person**  
**ROMANS 1 (PART 5C)**

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:18–32 NKJV).*

A careful examination of the depravity demonstrated in man shows that men in rebellion against God fall deeper and deeper into darkness and sin. Paul when describing this decline to the Romans shows the following downward regression:

Beginning with a clear knowledge of God, men demonstrated unthankfulness—refusing to pay homage and give honor to the Lord, rejection of God as supreme, suppression of the truth, foolishness, spiritual darkening of heart, and then self-exaltation, progressively debasing idolatry moving down the line from the worship of man (humanism) to the worship of so-called “heavenly” creatures like the dragon, Thoth, Horus, and the Phoenix (who in mythology represent creation, rebirth, and resurrection), and of lesser glory—four footed animals like the “golden calf,” and even as low as creeping things such as the cobra in Egypt and India, as well as the Scarab (beetle) in Egypt. All these various forms of idolatry are still venerated and worshiped today throughout the world. Even Yoga (sometimes practiced by unaware/uneducated Christians) utilizes these various creatures in symbolic bodily postures in order to enhance and release the power of Kundalini (the serpent).

From this abandonment of God, the moral decline followed with sexual fornication ranging from engagement with temple prostitutes, general heterosexual fornication, adultery, pedophilia, necrophilia, and ultimately (in total defiance of how we are made) homosexuality and bestiality.

The sin Paul listed in his summarizations (of those deserving death) all forms of unrighteousness: sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, strife, deceit, and evil-mindedness. He then described whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, the violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, those disobedient to parents, the undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful, and concluded that these who know the righteous judgment of God, not only practice such things but also approve of those who practice them.

There is no question about the fact that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. In fact, He desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (see Ezekiel 33:11 and 1 Timothy 2:3–4). However, the righteousness of God demands justice—and therefore judgment—upon those who reject the gracious provisions given us in Jesus.

Paul wanted all the Romans to understand their depravity and then to respond to the offer of salvation. His thesis herein draws us to the needed conclusions found in a full understanding of the entire Gospel narrative.

In consideration of the above, please note the following:

- 1) The wrath of God is revealed from heaven by the removal of restraining grace (allowing a hardening of the heart, thereby causing man to fall deeper and deeper into depravity while suffering its temporal consequences).
- 2) The wrath of God will be revealed from heaven in the coming eschaton and its future temporal and/or eternal judgment of unbelievers.
- 3) The righteousness of God will be revealed in the Gospel—vindicating God’s allowance of choice, sin, and consequence through the redemption promised in the eschaton by the rewarding of eternal life and complete restoration of believers.
- 4) The righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel—vindicating God’s allowance of choice, sin, and consequence: the curse, suffering, and death.

I love you all, Pastor Paul