

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
Romans 1:17-32 (NIV)

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:17 (NIV)

❖ Understanding God's Wrath:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For 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 men are without excuse. ²¹For 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. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Romans 1:18-23 (NIV)

1. God hates sin and it's DESTRUCTIVE POWER over the souls of men.
2. God has REVEALED HIMSELF to man and man is without excuse.
3. God has RELEASED MAN to his own demise if he chooses to turn his back on God.

❖ Recognizing Man's Rebellion:

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Romans 1:24-27 (NIV)

1. Man's rebellion leads to choosing SEXUAL IMPURITY.
2. Man's rebellion leads to falling into SHAMEFUL LUSTS.
3. Man's rebellion leads to God's PENALTY for their PERVERSION.

❖ Realizing Man's Depravity:

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They 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, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Although 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.

Romans 1:28-32 (NIV)

1. A depraved mind PRACTICES every sort of wickedness.
2. A depraved mind PRODUCES new ways of spreading evil.
3. A depraved mind PROMOTES other's depravity as good and normal.

"... and do not give the devil a foothold."

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)

- ❖ Closing Truth: God hates SIN, but He loves all people and wants to SAVE them.
But that is why God had mercy on me, so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life."

1 Timothy 1:16 (NLT)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)