

# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

## Romans 1:16–32

### Lesson 2

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From your study last week, share a reason you are excited to study the book of Romans.
2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest news ever! It is through the Gospel that we learn, *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

Those who receive this Gospel by faith (simply believing in it) are transformed by His power. Without this Good News (Gospel), men are destined to self-destructive ways. Only the Gospel is able to save men from this destruction. Let the Holy Spirit deepen your appreciation of the Gospel as you give a title to each of the sections below:

- a. Romans 1:16–17
  - b. Romans 1:18–23
  - c. Romans 1:24–27
  - d. Romans 1:28–32
3. Ask the Lord to deepen your appreciation of the Gospel of Christ.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,  
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.*

Romans 1:16

**SECOND DAY:** Read Romans 1:16–17

1. How did Paul regard the *gospel*? Romans 1:16a
  - a. Use 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 to summarize the *gospel*.
  - b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:22–23 to describe how some regard the *gospel*.
2. Use Romans 1:16b to write at least two reasons the *gospel* is so great.
  - a. Link this with 1 Corinthians 1:24 and share your thoughts.
  - b. How might this explain Paul’s readiness to share the *gospel* to those in Rome? Romans 1:15
  - c. Share a way you have seen the effects of the *gospel*.
3. According to Romans 1:17a, what is revealed through the *gospel*?
  - a. Consider the absolute holiness and love of God and the abject sin of man (Romans 1:17b). How does the *gospel* reconcile these? See also Isaiah 53:5–6.
4. Romans 1:17a (NLT) reads, *This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. Faith is believing in who God is and what He has done.* Why is this so essential?
5. In Romans 1:17c Paul used a quote from Habakkuk 2:4. This statement, *the just shall live by faith* is literally, *he through faith is righteous shall live*. Link this with Philippians 3:9 and share what this truth means to you.
  - a. Use Ephesians 2:8–9 to highlight the importance of faith.
6. What aspect of the *gospel* are you most excited about?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Romans 1:18–23

1. Romans 1:18b states that men *suppress the truth in unrighteousness*. Romans 1:19–20 (NLT) explains how men do this: *They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.* What *invisible qualities* of God do you see expressed in creation?
2. Use Paul's statement in Romans 1:21a to invalidate man's *excuse*.
3. According to Romans 1:21b, what has man not done?
  - a. From Romans 1:21c–23 document and remark on the downward progression of man in:
    - (1) Their *thoughts* (verse 21c)
    - (2) Their *hearts* (verse 21c)
    - (3) Their view of themselves (verse 22)
    - (4) Their view of God (verse 23)
4. Contrast the downward progression of man without God to the purpose God has **for** man in 1 Corinthians 6:20.
  - a. Share a way your study today has motivated you to:
    - (1) *Glorify* God
    - (2) Be *thankful*

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Romans 1:24-27

1. Note and comment on the sinful behavior God *gave them up to* as a result of man's willful suppression of the truth. Romans 1:24
  - a. When God *gave them up*, He allowed man to experience the results of his own choices. What does this convey to you about God? See also Genesis 6:3a.
2. Use Romans 1:25 to remark on the two things man has willfully done:
  - a.
  - b.
    - (1) What evidence of these choices do you see in the world today?
3. Because of man's decisions, *God gave them up to vile passions* (Romans 1:26b-27a). Why is this a tragedy?
  - a. Read Romans 1:26b-27 in the NLT: *Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men.* Contrast this with God's design in Matthew 19:4-6.
  - b. According to Romans 1:27b, what is the result?
    - (1) Link this with 1 Corinthians 6:18 and share your thoughts.
  - c. Paul wrote this epistle to a culture that openly accepted and practiced homosexuality. How is Paul's declaration still relevant?
4. Compare what you've studied today with John 3:17-21. What do you see?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Romans 1:28–32

1. According to Romans 1:28a, what did man *not like* to do?
  - a. As a result, what has God done? Romans 1:28b
    - (1) *Debased* means *reprobate*, *unfit*, or as Guzik describes it, *spiritually insane*. How does this speak to you concerning man's condition apart from God?
2. Read the sins Paul listed in Romans 1:29–31. What stands out to you the most?
  - a. Compare this list with today's culture. What similarities do you see?
  - b. Why should a Christian's life be in stark contrast to this list?
3. According to Romans 1:32a, what does man know?
  - a. Where does this conviction come from? See John 16:7–11.
  - b. In spite of this knowledge, what does mankind *do*? Romans 1:32b
    - (1) Share an example from the headlines of today's news that validates this fact.
4. How does the *shameful* behavior of man, magnify the necessity of the *gospel*?

**SIXTH DAY: Review**

1. As a result of man's willful suppression of the *truth*, God has given them over to their own choices. Use Romans 1:18–28 to document this:

MAN'S CHOICE	GOD'S RESPONSE
verses 18b and 21a	verse 24
verse 25	verse 26a
verse 28a	verse 28b

2. In light of your study this week, how does the condition of man accentuate:

a. The truth of the Gospel

b. The power of the Gospel

c. The need for the Gospel

3. Take a moment to pray specifically for someone who needs the Gospel.

*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.*

Romans 1:20