

Romans

**The Righteousness of God
proven through Messiah,
King Jesus**

Romans

How is God to be considered faithful when:

- *The world is still an absolute train wreck*
- *God doesn't appear to have made good on His promises to Israel*

**Paul's answer – Jesus PROVES God is faithful
& will make the World right again as King!**

Romans

Rough Outline of Romans:

- Romans 1:18-3:20 – *You have the wrong person on trial*
- Romans 3:21-8:39 – *God will put the world to rights thru Messiah*
- Romans 9-11 – *God has indeed been faithful to Israel & what He promised of old*
- Romans 12-16 – *Now live in harmony & love as the true renewed humanity of God*

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Paul's opening defense of God:

- *Opens with the REAL sentence being passed (the wrong party is being tried)*
 - *Gives the REASON for this proper verdict*
 - *Concludes w/ the real guilty parties – those that SHOULD be on trial*
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What IS the issue God is dealing with?

Answer = The Trinity created humanity to bear the Divine relational image & called Israel to point the way as light

- *Humanity as a whole has rebelled against their very created order – the essence of who they ARE*
- *Israel has been virtually faithless masking the light with their darkness – they make God look bad*

Will God abandon His Goal?

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Romans 1:18 – Observations about His Wrath

1. Proves He is fighting FOR humanity
 2. God is intrinsically good because He is still 100% AGAINST evil that distorts & defaces creation
 3. God is neither a tyrannical despot nor an indulgent landlord – rather He is the Judge & Creator & Lover of Creation
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N.T. Wright “Living between the Resurrection and the Final Judgment, whether it acknowledges it or not, the World lives before the unveiled gaze of the Cosmic Judge”

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Romans 1:18-23



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*Psalm 106:20-21 "Thus they exchanged their glory
For the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot
God their Savior, Who had done great things in
Egypt..."*

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Paul's 1st reversal of the charge against God

Answer = Humanity, created in the image of God to reflect their relational perfection with each other and us, turns instead to idolatry – to claiming utter independence and autonomy

Humanity claims it to be WISDOM

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Romans 1:24-25



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Paul's general charge:

Answer = Humanity has given their allegiance to everything that is NOT GOD!

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Romans 1:26-27

*Humanity given over a 2nd time
(God taking a step back)*

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Several Observations:

1. Not picking the worst sin he can think of
 2. Most damning condemnation is chapter 2 – moral superiority
 3. Most extensive Pauline discourse on this subject in the ENTIRE New Testament
 4. Look to Paul's dealing with food for insight
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Accomplishing at least 2 things:

1. We naturally sinfully do what Adam did – the world is out of joint
 2. The fact that we read this & push our noses up PROVES Paul's larger point – you are even worse because you sin just as much AND you are arrogant & judgmental!
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Exchange your Originator for an idol (anything other than Him) and you will exchange your genuine humanness for a distorted much lesser version!

Romans 1:28-32 – God's 3rd giving over

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List ends with 4 phrases in succession:

1. “without understanding” = completely senseless

2. “untrustworthy” = completely faithless

3. “unloving” = completely heartless

4. “unmerciful” = completely ruthless

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Closing thoughts:

1. We overestimate ourselves
 2. We underestimate ourselves
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