

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week we began a study in Paul's letter to the church of Rome by considering his theologically packed salutation.
- * Many would state that this Epistle would be the New Testament counterbalance to the Mosaic Law - the epic legal document providing the foundation for the transition from law to grace. However, I believe we will discover that in the plan of God, salvation all along has been an offering of grace to be received through faith ... and that the "law" was given primarily to protect and instruct us by our loving, benevolent Heavenly Father.
- * As we study this epistle we need to be mindful that it is a letter which has a fluid and continual thought pattern. It is not, as we commonly refer to it, a "book." Paul did not write in chapters. Rather, Paul's letter was segmented later. So, we want to consider Paul's purpose for the letter as a whole, as well as sub-themes within it.
- * Apparently, the church of Rome was struggling with many of the same issues that many of the churches in "uttermost parts of the world" were dealing with ... that concerning the union of Jewish and Gentile believers. The Jews believed that they were the chosen people and that in order for non-Jews to become "people" they had to proselytize themselves to the Jewish faith and adhere to the Mosaic Law. However, God was revealing throughout the world that He was not only the God of the Jews but of the Gentiles as well - and that salvation was not merited based upon adherence to the Mosaic Law but rather it was granted through God's grace upon the expression of individual faith in the One, True God who is the Creator of the heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind.
- * Today, we consider Paul's opening argument of his presentation regarding salvation by grace through faith ... as he discusses the revelation of God and the response of man.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE IMP _____ NCE OF THE GOSPEL (v. 15-17)

A. It Is The P _____ of God to S _____

B. It Is The R _____ of the R _____ of God

II. THE IMP _____ NCE OF MAN (v. 18-32)

A. The C _____ e of Their Impudence (v. 18-23)

1. THEIR S _____ ESSION OF T _____ (v. 18)

a. The Re _____ tion of God (v. 19-20)

i. *REVEALED IN EACH INDIVIDUAL* (v. 19; cf. *John 1:1*)

ii. *REVEALED IN HIS CREATION* (v. 20)

b. The Re _____ tion of Man (v. 20b-21)

i. *THE FACTS:*

ii. *THE FUTILITY OF THEIR THOUGHTS*

2. THEIR P _____ ESSION OF W _____ (v. 22-23)

a. Their Foolishness (cf. Psalm 14:1) ... Their exchange of wisdom for foolishness

b. Their Exchange ... i. *They Swapped the Glory of God for an Idol* ii. *They Swapped the Truth of God for a Lie*

B. The C _____ e of Their Impudence (v. 18, 24-32)

1. THE R _____ ION OF THE WRATH OF GOD (v. 18)

2. THE E _____ ION OF THE WRATH OF GOD (v. 24,26,28)

a. He gave them up to uncleanness (v. 24)

b. He gave them up to vile (dishonorable) passions (v. 26)

c. He gave them over to a debased (adokimos) mind (v. 28)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE REVELATION OF GOD?
- * DOES YOUR LIFE REVEAL ONE WHO HAS RECEIVED THE REVELATION OF GOD AND SUBMITTED TO IT?
- * OR, DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT HE WHO HAS TREATED GOD WITH IMPUDENCE?
- * ARE YOU GENUINE (dokimos) - OR WILL YOU BE FOUND OUT?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO REPENT (change the way you think) REGARDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? THE SCRIPTURE STATES THAT HE DESIRES ALL TO BE SAVED ... AND THAT HE IS NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH!