

## Romans Chapter 1:1-19

### 1. **Rom 1:1** Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

#### A. Paul- Gr. **Paulos**- meaning "*little*"

1. Before He was called Paul, his name was Saul, which meant "*asked for or desired*"- He was named after Saul, the first king of Israel. Saul was everything the people **asked for** in a leader- good looking, tall, proficient in battle, etc.
2. Saul of the N.T. was like the Saul of the O.T.- He trusted in all of his natural abilities instead of God.
  - a. He saw himself the greatest among men- [Gal 1:14](#)
  - b. He saw himself as blameless- [Php 3:6](#)
3. However, once Paul accepted the grace of God, He **accepted** the name Paul- *little*.
  - a. Now Paul saw himself the least of all the saints- [Eph 3:8](#)
  - b. He now recognized he had been the chief of sinners- [1Ti 1:15](#)
4. Understanding grace makes us little in ourselves, but makes God great. If we will humble ourselves we will receive His grace. Before we can learn the "**in Him**" truths we must learn the "**In me**" truths!
5. "**In me**" truths
  - a. In me, **I am** nothing- [2Co 12:11](#)
  - b. In me, **I have** nothing- [1Co 4:7](#)
  - c. In me, **I can do** nothing- [Joh 15:5](#)
6. Once we receive grace, God makes us great! Once we embrace the "**in me**" realities, we can now receive the "**in Him**" realities
  - a. In Him, **I am the righteousness of God**- [2Co 5:21](#)
  - b. In Him, **I possess all things**- [1Co 3:21-22](#)
  - c. In Him, **I can do all things**- [Php 4:13](#)

#### B. bondservant- Gr. **doulos**- *slave*- from Gr. **deo**- *to bind*

1. There were two types of slaves in ancient times
  - a. **unwilling**- These were bound by their master who purchased them to do their will.
  - b. **willing**- These were **bond slaves** who had obtained their freedom from their master, but they had chosen to bind themselves to their master's will because they loved their master.
2. Those under the Law were unwilling slaves that were obligated to serve God. You could not decide one day that you did not want to do what the Law said. The only way you could change the type of slave you were is by exercising faith in Christ or the coming Messiah. You could go from an unwilling slave to a willing one! Unfortunately, many Christians are living under legalism and are still unwilling slaves!
3. Under grace, we are all made **bond slaves**. Our freedom price from slavery had been fully paid by the blood of Jesus. Once we understand God's great love and grace towards us we will bind ourself to Him voluntarily to do His will.

We do this by faith and from the motivation of His love that He first gave us.  
[1Jn 4:19](#)

4. If you feel pressured to serve God, then you are not operating in N.T. servanthood. N.T. servanthood is done from willingness and faith, not law and obligation. We do not "pay" God back for what He has done for us by our serving Him. You were saved by grace, and now we are to serve God in and by grace [*freely from our love and empowered by Him*]

### C. Jesus Christ

1. **Jesus-** *salvation*; Christ- Gr. **Christos-** *the Messiah, Anointed One*
  - a. Jesus is anointed to save [Gr. **sozo**] us. If you are not allowing Christ to save [Gr. **sozo-** *save, deliver, heal, preserve, make whole, prosper*] you by His grace then you are not receiving His anointing.
  - b. It is the anointing that destroys the yoke- [Isa 10:27](#)
  - c. If you do not receive salvation [Gr. **sozo**] by sheer grace alone through faith alone, you will fail to receive the anointing that saves [Gr. **sozo**] you both spiritually and temporally.

### D. called to be an apostle- lit. "a called apostle"

1. **called-** Gr. **kletos-** If God has not called you, then it does not matter what you call yourself! Many are in ministry have not been called. They have just showed up! Also, many are not coming who have been called. This is a problem.
2. **apostle-** Gr. **apostolos-** *sent one with authority and a message*
  1. We need to be sent by God
  2. We need to understand and operate under and in authority
  3. We need a message- Many are going out without a message!
  4. There are 4 categories of N.T. apostles
    - a. **The Apostle of our Confession-** [Heb 3:1](#)- **There is only one in this category- Jesus Christ!**
    - b. **The 12 Apostles of the Lamb-** [twelve disciples]- [Rev 21:14](#)
    - c. **Foundational apostles-** These wrote scripture and laid down N.T. Doctrine- [Eph 2:20](#)
    - d. **Equipping apostles-** [Eph 4:11](#)- These equip the saints to do the work of the ministry- These are in the church today and will be until we are raptured.
5. Apostle is not a **TITLE** but a **FUNCTIONAL OFFICE** in the church
  - a. Paul never called himself the "**Apostle Paul**". He refers to himself as Paul, called to be an apostle. [1Co 1:1](#)
  - b. There is too many titles being tacked on people nowadays. This is a badge of pride. It is fine to show honor, but we should not demand someone call us by some title. [Just call me Rick or brother Rick!]
  - c. If you really have a ministry gift in you, people will recognize it right away without having to see it on your business card!
6. Apostles are sent away from the local church to establish new works for God. They often will do the work of an evangelist and pastor until they get a new work up and going. Then they will be sent away again to start all

over again! Many modern missionaries do apostolic work but not all missionaries are apostles.

E. **separated-** Gr. **aphorizo-** *to mark off, define, limit, appoint*

1. In this verse we see two terms that are interrelated. One is "**called**" and the other is "**separated**". You might be *called* to the ministry but not be *separated* unto that ministry. There is a time lapse between your call to ministry and when God separates you and commissions you into that ministry. [Act 13:2](#)- **separate me Paul and Barnabus unto the ministry I have called them.**

a. This time period is a time of testing for faithfulness.

b. This time period is a time for maturing.

c. This time period is a time for intimacy with God.

2. **Our calling and separation is for a certain place, time, and people. It has limits!** No one is called to **everywhere** and to **everyone**. Even Paul was limited in His calling to the gentiles and Peter was limited to the Jews. ***You also are called to a specific and limited ministry.*** You must find that niche and stick to it. You will find the anointing present right there in **that place** and to **those people** God has called you to. Many think their gift will prosper **anywhere** and with **anyone**. This is not the case, if God has not called you and opened up the door there. These people are sadly mistaken. Many get broken and bruised in ministry because they are trying to use their gift in the wrong place and with the wrong people. God limits His call of ministry to us. We must know those limits!

a. Paul never prospered in ministry until he left the Jews and started ministering to the gentiles. When he got in trouble it is when he would leave the gentiles and try to minister to the Jews! [**Acts chapter 20**]

b. Peter did great with the Jews, but when he went to minister among the gentiles he got into trouble! [[Gal 2:11-12](#)]

F. **unto the gospel of God**

1. **unto-** Gr. **eis-** *into-* Paul was called into the gospel. The gospel of grace is the entrance into God's plan for man.

2. **gospel-** Gr. **euanglion-** *good message or news-* Paul was sent by God, with His authority, but Paul had to know His message. This is what he learned from the point of his calling to the point of his separation unto the ministry God had for him. He had to learn grace.

a. We are called to preach the gospel- good news. If what we are preaching is not good news we are not preaching the gospel. Preaching that we are made righteous as a gift by the finished work of Christ is good news. Preaching we have to become righteous or maintain our righteousness by our acts of obedience is bad news. Matter of fact that is "old news"! That system already existed under the Law! The Law is bad news for mankind. The gospel of grace is great news for mankind!

b. If we do not understand grace we will preach bad news to people.

- c. Every Christian heard good news when they got saved, but many have not heard much good news since then because they are bogged down in legalism.
- d. If you lack joy in your life, friend, it is a sure sign you are believing bad news! You do not understand or believe the gospel. When we hear and believe good news we will have a smile on our face!

2. **Rom 1:2** which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

A. **promised before-** Gr. **proepangellomai-** *to proclaim in advance*

1. What was proclaimed in advance- the gospel of grace.
  - a. The gospel story was in every ritual and ever sacrifice of the O.T.
  - b. The gospel story was in the tabernacle and latter in the temple
  - c. The gospel of Christ is seen in the stories and events of the O.T.
  - d. The prophets revealed the holiness and wrath of God but also the promise of salvation by the coming Messiah
2. Your life is not in doubt! God has proclaimed in advance your outcome Christian- you win- not just when you get to heaven, but in every circumstance of life! [[2Co 2:14](#)] If you will find out what He has proclaimed about you and your future and agree with it, you will see it manifest in greater ways in your life.
3. This is one of the biggest evidences for the Bible being the very Word of God- fulfilled prophecy! Jesus Christ Himself fulfilled over 300 Messianic prophecies that are found in the O.T. It is staggering odds that one man could even fulfill just a handful of them. [It is really hard to have control over how and what is done to you when you are executed!] However, Jesus' death on the cross was vividly declared centuries earlier in [Psa 22:6-22](#) and [Isa 53:1-12](#).

B. **Through His prophets**

1. The Bible is unlike any other writing in existence. All books outside of the Bible are completely the work of man. However, the Bible is completely the work of God and man. The Bible is 100% of God and 100% of man. Every thought and word was inspired by God, but every thought and word was written down by man in expressing his own personality. The written Word of God mirrors the Living Word of God- Jesus Christ.
  - a. Jesus is 100% God and 100% man in one person. He is not 50/50 or a mixture. So, it is with the written Word of God.
  - b. The Bible is the only book that contains life in it.
  - c. If we neglect the Written Word of God, we neglect the Living Word of God.
2. God used man to give voice to His Word. This is God's plan. God has ordained that we give voice to His Word in order to have it's life released in this realm- the realm in which He has given man authority over.
  - a. We must give our voice to the Word of God. Many are hoping and begging God to get involved in their circumstances, but it will not take place until we give God's Word our voice. When we speak His word in faith, the Living Word of God is released to do it's work

- b. We all as believers has a prophetic responsibility to "speak forth" the Word of God over our lives and into the earth.
3. The prophets were inspired to write the Word of God. They were swept up and carried along by the Holy Spirit. Their thoughts and words did not originate with them, but with God, however they were expressed in the framework of their human intellect and personalities. [2Pe 1:21](#) The Word of God is truly supernatural and miraculous.

**C. in the Holy Scriptures-** lit. *set apart writings*

1. Again, the Bible is set apart as unique among all writings on the earth. It is the only writing that has life in it. It is set apart from all others.
2. Have we set apart this book? Many are reading other books as much or more than the Bible. Among a large number of Christians, the Bible is no longer Holy to them. Their Bible says "Holy Bible" but it is not holy to them, because they have not set it apart in their lives. Instead of going the Word of God in times of trouble they turn to everything else. One of the biggest selling sections in most Christian bookstores, is the "self help" section. I find that term funny- "self help". The one who is needing help is going to themselves for help!
3. Many are turning to counselors for help instead to the Word of God. [Psa 119:24](#) states that "your testimonies are my **counselors**." If we will regard the Word as holy in our practical life, then the Word will bring practical holiness in our life!

**3. Rom 1:3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,**

**A. Concerning His Son Jesus Christ**

1. Jesus is unique. First He has eternally been the Son of God. Early church creeds stated it this way, "Jesus Christ was **eternally begotten** of the Father." This refers to His Deity.
  - a. [Isa 9:6](#) - A child is born, a son **is given**. However, he became recognized to us as the Son of God, according to His humanity, by being born as a human on a certain day. [Heb 1:5](#)
2. The words "Jesus Christ" speaks of his humanity; God anoints man. The words "our Lord" speaks of His Deity.

**B. who was born-** lit. *who came to be-* This refers to the humanity of Jesus. Notice, that "Jesus Christ" came to be, not just "Jesus" came to be. Christ is not Jesus' last name, nor is it refer to His Deity. It speaks of His anointing and appointment from God to be our human representative and deliverer.

**C. of the seed of David according to the flesh**

1. Jesus was heir to the throne of David through his adoptive father, Joseph, who was descended from Solomon, one of the sons of David. [**See Matthew 1**]
2. Jesus was also the seed of David through His mother's side, Mary, who descended from Nathan, another son of David. [**See Luke 3**]
3. Jesus was born of royalty to signify that He has the right and authority to rule over all mankind. He was born of spiritual royalty [of God] and earthly royalty [of David]. This signifies that Jesus is Lord both of those living [on the earth in

flesh] and those who are dead [who have gone on and live in spirit]  
[Rom 14:9](#)

4. God prophesied that Israel would end up ruling over all the nations [[Gen 27:29](#)], and Jesus was prophesied to rule over Israel. [[Jer 33:17](#)] Jesus therefore is Lord over all. [Act 10:36](#)

D. Jesus was first born to die, and **then** to rule- This is the pattern we must go through. We must first find the death of the Lord Jesus working in us, and then the ruling resurrection life of Jesus will go to work in us. [2Co 4:10](#)

1. Jesus was born to rule over all flesh. We were born again to rule over our flesh.

4. **Rom 1:4 and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**

A. **Declared- orizo-** the same Gr. root as the word separated in verse 1- *marked off, define, limit, appointed*

B. **Son of God-** [the one unique Son of God] - By Jesus raising from the dead [not to die again] showed that He was unique of all humanity. It proved this was the Son of God.

C. **with power-** It took all of God's power to raise Jesus up from the dead.

1. God created the universe with his fingers [Psa 8:3](#) - There was no resistance to creation

2. It took God's arm to raise Jesus from the dead- [Isa 53:1](#) - There was all of hell and Satanic opposition to raising Jesus from the dead.

3. It took a mighty display of God's power to raise Jesus from the dead

a. [Eph 1:19-20](#) Paul uses four different Greek words for power to describe what it took to raise Jesus from the dead - **dunamis-** latent dynamic power, **energeia-** energy, **kratos-** ruling power, **ischus-** endowed power

D. **according to the Spirit [spirit] of holiness**

1. This is referring to the spirit of Jesus, not the Holy Spirit. His human spirit was sanctified and pure.

2. Jesus was fully human- He had a human body, soul, and spirit. The 2nd member of the Godhead called the Word became fully human taking on a human body, soul, AND human spirit.

3. Jesus did not die in His Deity on the cross. He died in His human spirit. This human spirit was reborn and sanctified after three days.

4. Jesus human spirit was quickened and made alive once we were justified. [1Pe 3:18](#) [this verse refers to Jesus human spirit being made alive- see NASB]

5. The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead was a sure sign we were justified. [Rom 4:25](#)

E. **By the resurrection from [among] the dead**

1. There were a number of people raised from the dead in the Bible, but only one that experienced resurrection- raised to live and not die again. Jesus resurrection separates Him from all other humans both religious and secular.

2. We await our resurrection. Jesus is the firstfruits of resurrection. We will experience resurrection at the rapture of the church. This is called the first



resurrection- because we are connected to Jesus the firstfruits. [Rev 20:6](#) All unbelievers will not experience the first resurrection. They will experience the second death!

5. **Rom 1:5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,*

A. **received grace and apostleship**

1. We must receive grace first before we can receive the office God calls us to stand in. If we do not understand and receive grace properly we will be ineffective in our calling.
2. When God calls us to a ministry office He equips us with grace first. This grace is working in us before we ever are separated into the ministry he has called us. If we are faithful to steward of this grace, then He will separate us to a greater ministry office.
  - a. There are 7 body offices in the body of Christ- [Rom 12:6-8](#) **prophecy, ministering [helps], teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy**. There are 5 equipping offices to minister to the 7 body offices- apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher.  $7+5=12$  - twelve is the bible number for administration or governing. God administers His will through the 5 equipping offices and the 7 body offices.
  - b. One does not start out as a Prophet although they have the grace to prophesy. They start out in the body office of prophecy. If they will steward that gift then they will be separated if God wills to the office of Prophet. The Evangelist does not start out as an evangelist. He starts out in exhortation first. The equipping office of Teacher does not start there. He starts out using the grace of teaching in the body office of teaching. If he is faithful to steward the grace gift of teaching he will be given the office of Teacher if God wills.

B. **obedience of faith - [note: some translations have "the obedience to the faith", but the Greek says "obedience of faith"]**

1. Obedience under the Law and obedience under grace are not the same
2. Obedience of the Law was mere outward and external observance to the written commands of God.
3. Obedience under grace is of the heart and has faith as it's source.
4. The terms **obey** and **believe** are interchangeable in the N.T.
  - a. [Act 5:32](#) -The Spirit is given to those who obey [believe] Him
  - b. [Gal 3:1](#) - Obey [believe] not the truth
  - c. [2Th 1:8](#) - Obey [believe] not the gospel
  - d. [Heb 3:18-19](#) - did not obey, because of [unbelief]
  - e. [Heb 5:9](#)- author of salvation to those who obey [believe] Him
  - f. [1Pe 4:17](#)- obey [believe] not the gospel
5. God's demand for obedience under the Law was perfection. To break one command was to break all of it! [Jas 2:10](#) God only has one standard for His blessing us, which is perfect obedience. However, none have given God what He demanded and needed. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. [Rom 3:23](#) Only one man has given God what He demanded in order to

give forth His blessings. This man was Jesus Christ. Jesus obtained perfect righteousness under the Law by fulfilling the Law for 33 years on the earth. He did it as our representative. It is through Christ's perfect obedience that we were given His righteousness. [Rom 5:19](#) God blesses man on the account of righteousness- perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ's obedience and righteousness has been imputed to us who believe. Because of this righteousness, then all that Jesus died for is freely given to us by grace. [Rom 8:32](#) He FREELY gives us ALL things with Jesus! We are blessed because of the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ. Many are trying to obtain the blessings of God by their own obedience to the Laws of God. However, even the most hard line legalist realizes that he does not **ALWAYS** keep **ALL** of God's Laws **ALL** the time in **EVERY** way with **ALL** of his heart. At the point of their missing it they then try to fall upon God's grace. God has not left us this option. We must either approach God and receive from Him totally by grace or totally by works. These cannot be mixed. If they are then both are destroyed. [Rom 11:6](#)

6. When we come to God by His grace and receive the gift of His righteousness, then the Holy Spirit will work in us powerfully to bring our lives into line with that righteousness. ***Grace does not free us to live as we want, it empowers us to live as God wants!*** Instead of trying to change ourselves from the outside in, God will transform us from the inside out by faith! When we trust Christ and His Word then God sees this as obedience and ties us to Christ's perfect obedience and God's blessing and power is released in us. It all comes through the perfect obedience and righteousness of **ONE** man- Christ Jesus. That is why I pray in Jesus' name! I pray on the basis of the standing and merits of Jesus Christ. When I do, I receive from God! If I pray in my name and upon my own personal standing and merits with God, then I will leave empty every time. God will not receive impartial obedience and imperfect righteousness.
7. Under the dispensation of grace our Christian walk started out with the obedience of faith and now we are to live the Christian life under the same principle. [Col 2:6](#) The book of Romans begins with the "obedience of faith" and the book ends with the "obedience of faith." [Rom 16:26](#) We received initial blessings by the obedience of faith and we will continue to receive God's blessings by our obedience of faith.

### C. among the gentiles

1. This gospel was given to the gentiles because it is a gospel of grace. This means the good news of God's redemption is given on the basis of unearned favor. God offers everything Jesus died to give us freely outside of our merit. What better way for God to reveal His grace than to give it to the gentiles who had no hope and no covenant with God. [Eph 2:12](#) The gentiles were heathen dogs to the Jews. They were unworthy of the least of God's blessings in the Jews' mind. Who better to offer unmerited favor to than those to who deserved it the least!



2. The fact that God's redemption, Holy Spirit, and His blessings were given freely to the gentiles was to bring the Jews to jealousy and to receive Christ by faith also. [Rom 10:19](#)

#### D. for His name's sake

1. This is the sole reason we receive from God today. It is for **His name's sake**. A name in biblical times stood for three things. It stood for one's character, standing, and merits. The gospel and all of its blessings come to us by grace and for Jesus Christ's name sake.
2. Most Christians believe that God moves in their life based upon their own level of holiness and obedience. God moves in our lives because of our faith in Christ and His perfect holiness and obedience. True faith will be expressed in appropriate actions and words however.
3. Many people are shocked at these statements. They argue as those against Paul, "Then we can sin all we want and be blessed right!" God forbid! **Grace does not free us to sin, it frees us from sin**. Righteousness is not just **imputed** to us, but also **imparted** into us! Our nature has changed from sinner to holy. [Eph 4:24](#) Now we are motivated to a holy life because of the life of God on the inside of us. We do not live holy to earn the blessings of God. The blessings of God are freely given to us to empower us to live holy. We are not saved or blessed by good works, but we are saved and blessed unto good works! [Eph 2:8-10](#) Many try to put the cart before the horse. This just confuses and frustrates the horse!

#### 6. **Rom 1:6** among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

- A. I am so thankful that He called me, aren't you! If He had not called me, I would be lost and bound for hell. No person can find God without God having first drawn Him toward salvation. [Joh 6:44](#)
- B. All men are drawn toward salvation [[Joh 12:32](#)], but only some respond and are saved. Many are called, but few are chosen [Mat 22:14](#) God chooses those who respond to Him and say yes to salvation. They enter Christ and in Him are the elect or chosen ones. God knew before the foundation of the world who would respond so those who did are seen elect or chosen from the foundation of the world! [Eph 1:4](#) The sign over the entrance of the door of salvation says, "All may come" but when you walk through and look over the door it reads- "chosen from before the foundation of the world" How great is our God!

#### 7. **Rom 1:7** To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

##### A. To all who are in Rome

1. Paul did not start this church like he did in Philippi, Ephesus, and Corinth.

##### B. beloved of God

1. Oh, the depths of these three little words! We are loved of God. There is nothing more important to know than this- "God loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Nothing can separate us from that love. [Rom 8:39](#)

##### C. called saints

1. We are saints. A saint according to the N.T. is not a hyper spiritual person who did three miracles. No, everyone who is born again is called a saint- a holy one. Saint and holy are from the same Greek word hagios. Holy or saint means to be set apart. We are set apart from the world and belong to God for His purpose and glory.
2. If we would renew our minds to the fact that we are holy be our new birth, it would manifest in our natural lives. Many are trying to live holy in order to become holy. No, we must believe we are holy, and then that will affect our lives and produce holy living.

#### D. **Grace to you**

1. This is not just a customary greeting to be read over quickly. It is filled with power.
2. This is one of the most repeated phrases in the N.T. outside of "in Him" and like phrases. 13 of the N.T books begin with this phrase and most of the rest of the books mention grace in the beginning of the letter.
3. Grace is declared upon us at the beginning of each book before anything is told for us the Christian to do practically in our lives? Why? It is because grace is the unmerited favor of God. It cannot be deserved or earned by our actions. All the blessings in spiritual places have already been given to us before we are ever told to do anything in the Christian life. [Eph 1:3](#) These blessings are actually given to us to empower us to live the Christian life.
4. Grace is not just an attitude God has towards us. Grace is not a thing. Grace is a person! The Law was given, but Grace came to us. [Joh 1:17](#) Jesus came to us. He is the grace of God. He is the resource for the Christian life. Grace is not just the unmerited favor of God. It is also the ability of God put within us to empower us to live a God honoring life! Grace is the ability of God. [2Co 12:9](#) Grace is the strength of God that is sufficient for us in every and any circumstance. If you are being overcome in any area of your life, you are not drawing upon the grace of God in that area. His grace makes you an overcomer!

#### E. **peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

1. peace is the result of receiving grace. [Rom 5:1](#) If you lack peace then you are not tapping into the grace of God. Living towards God and others based upon your own merits and performance will cause you to be nerve racked! Once you accept the finished work of Christ on your behalf before the Father, you will enter into a deep peace.
2. **peace**- Gr. **eirene**- from **eiro**- *to join*
  - a. the peace of God is much like the word saved [**sozo**], it is an all inclusive word which is total wholeness in every area. The grace of God through Jesus Christ brings wholeness to every area of our being and life if you will believe, receive, and act on it.
3. True peace can only come from God the Father **and** Jesus Christ. Many claim to have peace with God and reject Jesus. This cannot happen! You can only accept the Father and be acceptable by Him through Jesus Christ. [1Jn 2:23](#)

8. **Rom 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

A. **First, I thank my God**

1. We need to put first things first. The first thing in our lives should always be the praise and worship of God. Thanksgiving is a form of praise to God. Thanksgiving should never be lacking from our prayer recipe because it causes our prayers to rise! [Php 4:6](#)
2. If we would start our prayers out with thanksgiving then our prayers would be a lot less selfish and self centered.
3. If we would start our prayers out with thanksgiving then the rest of our prayers will be charged with faith. It is not possible to thank God for any length of time and not sense that our faith has been energized. Faith comes by hearing the spoken Word of God. When we verbally recount to God His promises and how He has fulfilled them in our lives and in those around us our faith is energized.
4. Whoever or whatever is our God will receive our thanks. Some people are thankful to money or possessions because they are their god. It is quite humorous to see people say they are thankful but claim to be atheists! Who are they thankful to? If God in heaven is your God then you need to be thankful to Him on a regular basis.

B. **through Jesus Christ for you all**

1. Anything we offer to God must go through Jesus Christ before it will be accepted of Him. Jesus Christ sanctifies what is of man. [Heb 10:10](#)
2. If we do not see other Christians through Christ and being forgiven and made holy through His blood we will not be thankful for them. Often we get looking at people's failures, weaknesses, and faults. We are to no longer look at other Christians according to the flesh, but through Christ. God sees you forgiven, clean, and holy. We are to also view other Christians as God sees us. [2Co 5:16](#) If we look at everyone through Christ we will be thankful for everyone!

C. **your faith is being spoken about throughout the whole world**

1. This should be one of our goals. Most people's mouths are being heard but not their lifestyle of faith.
2. The best form of advertising is word of mouth. Is our life of faith being advertised by word of mouth or is our ungodly behavior? Bad news always travels faster than good news.
3. Word gets around! What is the word on the street about you?

9. **Rom 1:9** For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

A. **God is my witness**

1. This is a fact all the time. God is our witness. He is our witness when we are living right and when we are living wrong. God is our witness all the time. This should affect our lives! God is both our Judge and witness. God will be the witness to our lives at the Judgment Seat of Christ. His testimony is truth.

B. **whom I serve with my spirit**

1. **serve-** Gr. **latreuo-** *to render sacred service-* This word was used of the religious service of the priests to God in the Old Testament. Their service was a fleshly natural service in line with written and external rules and codes.
2. **with [by] my spirit-** Paul's service was done from faith in Christ who indwelt his born again spirit. By faith, Paul allowed Christ to express His life in and through Him. [Gal 2:20](#) Paul did not serve God according to the flesh and with outward observance to a written code. Paul was led by the Spirit of God in His spirit. Paul's life and service to God was done by the leading of the Spirit in his spirit.
3. When we sense the leading of God in our spirit and follow that, then we are serving God with or by our spirit. Only born again Christians can serve God with their spirit. All those in religion are trying to serve God with their flesh. God does not receive service from the flesh. There is nothing good in the flesh that is acceptable to God. [Rom 7:18](#)

#### C. in the gospel of His Son

1. The good news of the gospel is that we do not have to approach God upon the performance of a list of external right and wrongs any more. We approach God through the Lord Jesus Christ finished work on our behalf.
2. The good news of the gospel is that our nature has been changed and that God now dwells in our spirits and He communicates His will to us by an internal leading in our spirit. We are now empowered by God from the inside of us to will and to do of His good pleasure! [Php 2:13](#)
3. The gospel is the gospel **of His Son to sons**. Those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God! [Rom 8:14](#)
4. Sons are led from the inside; servants are directed from the outside. Those under the law are mere servants of God, but those who have received Christ in their hearts have become sons!

#### D. that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers

1. **without ceasing** means Paul regularly **mentioned** the Romans to God in his prayers
2. prayer is so powerful! Just the mention of a name before God will bring the answer of His providence and care over that person!
  - a. Paul did not say that he prayed for hours concerning all the Romans saint's problems and concerns. He just said he mentioned them before God. It is good to pray specifically concerning the needs we know about, but when we don't, just the mention of someone's name before God and committing them to His care will avail much.
3. **prayers-** Gr. **proseuche-** *beseeking to the face-* this is an intimate face to face encounter with God. Prayer is no more or nor less than communicating with God. Communication takes place when there is both talking and listening. God desires to commune with us.
4. I believe the power of Paul's life was his prayer life and revelation of the Word of God.

10. **Rom 1:10** making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

**A. Making request-** Gr. *deomai-* to make petition

1. Many do not ask God for transfer papers from one place to another. They just go without asking.
2. Paul made request that he might find a way to the Romans **in the will of God**.
3. This means there are ways that we can go places out of the will of God. Paul actually found one of these ways. Instead of listening to the Spirit of God about not going to Jerusalem to minister to the Jews, which Paul was not called to, he was went any way because he wanted to.

**B. by some means..I may find a way**

1. God found a way to get Paul to Rome. It was on board of a prisoner ship! Paul went to Jerusalem to preach the gospel, but he was captured before he could even preach about Jesus! He was sent to Rome to stand trial. I do not believe this was God's first choice on how to get Paul to Rome, but he got there all the same.

**C. in the will of God to come to you**

1. In the book of Acts , [Act 19:21](#), Paul speaks of his plan to visit Rome after he went to minister to the Jews in Jerusalem. I believe it was God's will for Paul to go to Rome then, but he was so set upon ministering to the Jews because of the great burden he had for them. [Rom 9:2-3](#); [Rom 10:1](#) However, the Jews were not his calling. It is so important to know our calling and stick to it. This is where God's will and blessing lay. God sent person after person to warn Paul about going to Jerusalem but Paul would not listen. Having a hard head can be a blessing or curse in the ministry!

**11. Rom 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established--**

**A. For I long to see you- "long" - Gr. *epipotheo-* intense desire and longing**

1. What a work of grace that had been wrought in this ex-Pharisee! He here is longing for gentiles that he had never even met!
  - a. Gentiles were dogs to the Jews and especially to the legalistic Pharisees.
  - b. Paul was longing for those who he had never met before. Loving people you never even met is the sole work of the thrice Holy God working in the human heart.
2. Paul got this intense love for others from his personal encounters with God. You cannot rub close to God without having His love rub off on you! Legalistic people have trouble believing with all their heart that God loves them. Paul got a revelation of the love of God. He then prayed that all the saints would get the same revelation. [Eph 3:17-19](#)

**B. that I may impart- Gr. *metadidomi-* give over, share**

1. You cannot impart what you do not have. A minister is called to impart to others. We must be sure we have something to impart. Too many ministers are giving out way more than they are taking in. This is a sure recipe for a burnt minister!

**C. some spiritual gift**

1. Paul had been given many spiritual gifts to share. Our gifts are not for us, but for others. Many use their gifts for their own personal advancement. Gifts from God are for the advancement of others.
2. The spiritual gifts are given for the profit of others. [1Co 12:7](#)
3. When we share a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, or a prophetic utterance with someone it builds them up.
4. We need to desire the spiritual gifts more than we do and we would see them more often in our midst.
5. the spiritual gift here is not necessarily one of the 9 manifestations of the Spirit seen in 1 Cor. 12. It could include revelation from the Word of God which also is a spiritual gift to us.

**D. that you may be established**

1. The spiritual gifts are to establish the body of Christ. Many believing they are operating in the gifts, actually tear others down. People in these cases are not operating in the spiritual gifts of God. They are either operating in the flesh or operating in demonic manifestations. Satan will always tear down. When the spiritual gifts are in operation people are established and built up.

**12. Rom 1:12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.**

**A. that is, that I may be encouraged together**

1. this addition is a sign of humility on the part of Paul.
2. Many ministers are too proud to receive from their congregation encouragement, insights, and input. Paul was open to give and receive from others.
3. A minister needs encouraging just as much as the congregation does!

**B. By the mutual faith *both of you and me***

1. It takes faith to operate in the spiritual gifts- [Rom 12:6](#) - *prophecy in proportion to your faith*
2. It takes faith to receive the ministry of the spiritual gifts- we must **believe** the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and prophecy before it will be effective for us and in us.
3. When a minister ministers in faith and the congregation pulls from that minister by their faith then there will be an impartation of a spiritual gift that will bring encouragement and stability. The congregation has as much a part to play in receiving a spiritual gift from a minister as the minister imparting it. A congregation that has an open heart and is believing to receive from a minister will draw upon the gift within them and much more will come forth.
4. Jesus could not impart very much to those in His home town because of their unbelief. [Mar 6:5](#)

**13. Rom 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.**

**A. I do not want you to be unaware brethren [lit. *ignorant- not knowing*]**



1. How often people judge, gripe, murmur, and talk about others simply because they are ignorant of all the facts!
2. There were most likely some who were shooting their mouth off that Paul did not keep His word about coming to see them like he said he was. They did not know that he often planned to do so, but he was actually hindered by the enemy and by circumstances beyond his control.
3. We should be very careful about judging someone's motives and why they did something. Often our conclusions are in error because we are ignorant of the facts.

**B. I often planned to come to you**

1. It is up to man to plan, but we need to realize that our steps are ordered and directed by the Lord. [Pro 16:9](#) We can make plans but we need to submit them to God for His approval and blessing and be sensitive if the answer is no. [Pro 16:3](#)
2. Paul was sensitive to God on his second missionary journey. He went to preach the gospel but got a "no" when he tried to go into Asia. He got a "no" when he tried to go into Bythinia. [Act 16:6-7](#) He got a yes to go into Macedonia.  
[Act 16:9](#) We need to listen and watch for the Lord's "no's" and "yes's".

**C. (but I was hindered until now)**

1. We need to be aware that when our plans seem to keep having snags that maybe we have the wrong plan or have the wrong time. Usually when we have the right plan and timing we will have smoothness. We will have a grace to everything. When we are following a wrong plan or in a wrong time we will find the way hard and full of obstacles. We will have a lack of grace and the presence of frustration. However, sometimes, we are in the right plan and time but we are just being attacked by Satan. When we experience times when our plans are being hindered we should spend extra time in prayer to find out God's mind and direction in the matter.

**D. that I may obtain some fruit from you also**

**14. [Rom 1:14](#) I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.**

**A. I am a debtor-** Gr. *opheiletēs*- *one who has assumed a debt*

1. Paul said he was a debtor. We will see in the next verse that the debt was to preach the gospel.
  - a. Paul was a debtor because he was commissioned by the Lord Jesus Himself to preach the gospel. [Act 26:14-18](#)
2. Paul said he would not be rewarded for preaching the gospel because it was a necessity placed upon him. He was saying that preaching the gospel was a debt he owed God because it was His command to do it. [1Co 9:16-17](#)
  - a. Paul would be rewarded for how he preached the gospel. He said he would be rewarded for preaching the gospel free of charge! Paul often preached without taking up any offerings from the people he preached from as in Corinth. [1Co 9:18](#)

- b. Billy Graham made a habit of not taking up any offerings up from those who he preached the gospel to. He will be rewarded for that according to the Word of God.

**B. to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and unwise**

1. The Greeks claimed to be wise and the barbarians were seen as stupid and unwise. These two categories comprise the Gentiles.
2. Paul was a debtor to the Greeks and barbarians [the gentiles]. He did not say he was a debtor to the Jews. No, Paul was indebted to the Gentiles. This is because God gave Him a commission to the Gentiles. [Act 22:21, Act 26:17](#)
3. Paul was sent to the Gentiles, but God revealed to him that he would in the course of doing this give testimony to the children of Israel. [Act 9:15](#) However, Paul was not sent to the Jews. He was commissioned by the Lord to the Gentiles.
4. We have a debt in the area and to the people that God commissions us.
5. The whole church has been given the world as it's commission [Mat 28:19](#), but you individually have a specific allotment in the world he has called you to. This is where you debt lays.
6. We all are indebted to preach the gospel because we all have a commission to preach the gospel from the Lord Jesus. We also are indebted to a certain group of people. Where God places you to work and live is the place where you are indebted to preach the gospel

**15. Rom 1:15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.**

**A. So, as much as is in me**

1. This is such a crucial principle in ministry! We can only minister to others **as much as is in us!**
2. There are way too many ministers preaching and teaching from the "**very little**" that is in them.
3. This phrase, "**as much as is in me**", first speaks of the revelation of the Word of God that we have. Many ministers preach other people's material without first having the revelation that the minister they got it from had gotten from the Lord.
4. This phrase also speaks of our need for continual input of the Word of God in our lives. We need DAILY study and meditation in the Word. As we store up the Word in our heart we have a reservoir to minister from. If a minister stops putting in fresh Word into their hearts then their teaching and ministry will lack life and will stagnate! There are a lot of stinky ministers preaching stinky messages out there! If your minister opens up their bible and notes and blows off a layer of dust off of them, you need to find another church!

**B. I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome**

1. Paul was **ready** to preach the gospel because of what was in Him!
  - a. ready -Gr. **prothumos**- *of a predisposed mind*. Paul was "cocked and loaded" and ready to preach when any opportunity presented itself. It is wise, if you have no where to preach, that you prepare sermons anyway. We are to prepare first and then the door will open!

2. Again, many are not **ready** for ministry because they have little in them. Are you ready for the ministry God has for you?

16. **Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

**A. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ**

1. Why would Paul be tempted to be ashamed of the gospel? It is because the gospel is offensive to the flesh and to those who are legalistic. [Gal 5:11](#) When you preach that we are accepted by God based upon Christ's finished work alone and not our performance or personal level of holiness or obedience to a code of right and wrong then you will draw great disdain and persecution. The simple gospel is offensive to those who embrace and live under the Law. When you preach that you are blessed in your daily life because of what Christ has done for you and not what you do for God, then you will be accused of teaching and preaching ungodliness and lawlessness. Paul faced this in his ministry. He had many accuse him of preaching that sin in our life does not matter to God and that we actually should sin more in order to get more grace. [Rom 6:1](#); [Rom 3:8](#) This of course is not what Paul preached but this is what legalists hear when pure grace is ministered. The true gospel does not free you **to** sin, but frees you **from** sin. This is because the power of God is in the gospel- *the power to set you free from all sin and bondage*. Grace liberates and Law enslaves. [Rom 6:14](#) **You are not truly preaching the pure gospel if you do not have to deal with this question, "So are you saying that it is alright to live in sin and still be blessed by God?"**
2. Many are not offended at grace when it is preached to unbelievers for salvation, but become very offended when it is preached to believers as a means of living the Christian life. Some of the same people who rejoice to see sinners blessed with salvation by grace through faith, will fight you vehemently when you preach believers are blessed, healed, delivered, prospered by grace through faith. They have changed horses mid stream! They have traded in grace for the Law and legalism when it comes to living the Christian life.
3. If we will be faithful and good ministers of the New Covenant we need to be prepared to be riled against and lied about. It does not feel good when people say we are preaching that sin is fine and that we should not care about holiness. That hurts! It makes you feel embarrassed that people think that you are preaching that stuff. However, you cannot back off preaching the grace message just because some legalistic people do not understand it and twist it. If you do not deal with that feeling of shame and embarrassment then you will slowly find yourself shying away from preaching the gospel of grace. When we do it will rob us of all the power of God in lives and for the lives we minister to! We have a debt to God to preach the gospel of grace. He will watch out for our reputation. We do not have to defend ourself. I AM NOT ashamed of the gospel of grace, are you?

**B. for it is the power of God unto salvation**

1. The gospel of grace taps you into the power of God. The Law taps you into the power of your flesh. When you trust in grace, God will perform works of power for you. Under Law you work for God under the power of your own ability. Grace focuses upon what God does. What God does, He does with His power! That power is more than sufficient for everything we need and face! If you live under a performance mentality towards God then you will always struggle with lack, deficiency, and weakness.
2. Our flesh will fail us. We cannot perform in the flesh to the standard that God requires of us. He will not accept our partial works or obedience and then supply what is lacking. This is a common belief. However, it is dead wrong! Either God performs **all** for us based solely on **His merits** or He performs nothing for us. Our part in the Christian life is faith. Now, faith is released by words and our actions but those actions are not the cause for God moving in our life. Our movements are to come because we believe God first moved for us by sending Jesus and what Jesus did at the cross! God's movement in Christ is the cause for our movement and what empowers it. The life of faith is a most active life! Paul said he did more than others, but it was actually the grace of God empowering Him. [1Co 15:10](#) Our flesh will fail us, but if we lay hold of God's grace, it will sustain us and take us higher by His power! [Isa 40:31](#)
3. **unto salvation-** Gr. **sozo-** *deliverance, preservation, healing, wholeness, and prosperity*. This is an all inclusive word for God's benefits towards us. The grace of God brings all that we need in the Christian life. Grace is what God does for us outside our merits or level of obedience to a list of rules. God sees faith as obedience and actually links us to the perfect obedience of Christ which was displayed in His perfect life under the Law and His sacrificial death for us. One cannot experience any form of salvation by works or by the Law. God only accepts perfect works and perfect obedience to the Law for Him to move for us. None as done this except the one Man, Christ Jesus.

17. **Rom 1:17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

A. **For in it-** in the gospel of grace.

B. **the righteousness of God is revealed**

1. **righteousness-** Gr. **diakaiosune-** *"the state of being as one ought to be"; right, innocent.*
  - a. There was only one person that was just as he ought to be in God's eyes. That was Jesus Christ. The problem with humanity was that we were directly the opposite as we were ought to be in God's eyes.
  - b. There are two aspects to righteousness. One is a **judicial act** conferred **upon us**, and the other is that God's decree is **executed** and something takes place **within us**.
    - 1a. **imputed righteousness-** [Rom 4:24](#) This is a legal verdict of God that declares us as we ought to be. It declares we have met the standards of divine justice through Christ and therefore are in right standing with

Him. This was given to us when we believed upon Christ. This speaks of the believer being "in Christ". This speaks of our **position** in Christ.

2a. **imparted righteousness-** [2Co 5:21](#) This is the actual planting of the righteous life of the Lord Jesus in our reborn spirits at the point of regeneration. The nature of God and His righteousness is imparted into the spirit of the believer. [Eph 4:24](#) This is the beach head from which God can operate in the life of the believer. It is the source for the fruit of the Spirit. [Gal 5:22-23](#) This is Christ Jesus in us. This speaks of our condition. Christ in us the hope of Glory.

3a. Christians who abuse grace or who are afraid of grace only see one side of righteousness. They see the imputed side. They only see that God made a judicial decree and declared us righteous. Those that abuse grace like to say, "Well, God sees me righteous, so it does not really matter what I do" or they say, "God sees me righteous, but He knows I cannot live without sinning because I really am just a sinner saved by grace" God not only imputes righteousness to us, but He also **IMPARTED** righteousness in us. Knowing this and believing this will release the power of this righteousness to empower us to live a God honoring life! The nature of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the New Covenant spoken of in Ezekiel. By a new heart and the Holy Spirit we will be **caused** to walk in the will of God! [Eze 36:24-27](#) We will be caused to walk, not made to walk. If we will believe that the righteousness nature of God is in us then it will empower us and cause us to walk a supernatural walk! Those who are afraid of grace say this, "If you do not make people live by a list of rules to be blessed, then what will motivate people to live holy? Won't they just go willy nilly and go wild?" This would be the case if God just declared us righteous without changing us too. However, God made us righteous and imparted His sin hating life in our hearts. Through the new birth we do not want to sin! God took out the old pig heart we used to have that loved the mud, and replaced it with a sheep heart that hates the mud. A sheep might stumble into the mud occasionally, but they are not content to stay there, I promise you! God is able to keep us living holy much better than man can by fear, intimidation, and legalism. In the O.T. a man tried to keep the ark of God's presence and holiness in balance by his own hand, however, he was struck down for it! [2Sa 6:6-7](#) No, God is able to keep His holiness and grace in balance in our life by His nature in us and by the Holy Spirit.

2. **is revealed-** Gr. **apokalupto-** *to remove the cover off*; present tense- lit. *being revealed*

- a. As long as someone tries to perform for God to get Him to react to him, then righteousness will be tightly sealed from their sight and the actual experience of it in his life.
- b. The gospel of grace takes the lid off of righteousness and it can be seen and experienced.

- c. Those under legalism are blinded to righteousness. They are always on a quest for "hidden treasure". They have only heard about it, but have never seen it, or experienced it. They are always a few rules away from finding it in their estimation. However, they never do, unless they find Christ first!
- d. There have been multitudes of Christians who had a brief glimpse of righteousness when they got saved but it was quickly covered over again by preachers of legalism that are in too many churches. Most teach that you get saved by grace but to receive anything else after that from God you must perform for Him and keep a set of dogma or rules of right and wrong. Once this happens then the believer is plunged back into the dark and sets out of the treasure hunt for righteousness and the blessings of God that are all too elusive. Many, sad to say, end up living and dying empty handed! They go to heaven when they die, but they experience very little of what Jesus died to give them.
- e. Whenever we exercise in our faith in the finished work of Christ and what He provided by His grace then righteousness is being revealed to us. The more we focus on and meditate on all that Christ did for us and gave to us freely by His perfect life and obedience to God, we will see more and more of God's righteousness manifested in our lives! God's open door into our lives is righteousness. Not our own righteousness, but God's own righteousness conferred upon us and placed within us. From this basis and beach head he pours out all of heaven's resources to us and through us. Is God's righteousness being revealed in you today? Are you enjoying the righteousness of God or are you on a treasure hunt trying to find it?

### **C. from faith to faith**

- 1. This is much like breathing. You took your first breath of air when you were born, and then you live from breath to breath. As you started you need to continue!
- 2. This is the same way with the Christian life! You were born again by faith in God's grace. Now that you were born again by faith you are to live by exercising your faith in God's grace in each situation. Just like you breathe in and then out and then in again, so it is with faith. We take in the Word of God, we release our faith. We take in the Word, we release our faith- over and over again!
- 3. We are to continue to walk in Christ the same way we got saved- It was by faith in God's grace. [Col 2:6](#) Each time we take in God's Word and release our faith by words and actions the righteousness of God is revealed in us and through us!
- 4. The sad thing is that many Christians were born again by grace through faith but afterwards they move from grace and faith to legalism and works. They move from unbelief to unbelief and their life falls apart instead of getting better. The path of the righteous [one that lives by faith] grows brighter and brighter. [Pro 4:18](#) If your life is not getting better and better then you are not living by faith in God's grace.

### **D. As it is written, "The just shall live by faith"**

- 1. This is a quote from [Hab 2:4](#)



- a. This verse begins, "*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not right*"- The person who tries to be holy enough for God to bless Him is lifting up his soul in God's face. This person is not right with God. Those who live by a code of Law in order to receive from God is shown to be unrighteous! The Just [*one who has received Christ by faith*], shall live by the same principle of faith.
- b. Legalistic people argue and fight that they are right. God says they are not right! Only those who humble themselves to receive grace by faith are right. Only those who live in this way live right lives.

18. **Rom 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

A. For the wrath of God

1. **wrath-** Gr. **orge-** deep seated anger as opposed to Gr. **thumos-** outburst of anger
2. It is important to note that God's wrath in this verse is revealed against **ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men, not against men as objects primarily themselves. Of course, men are connected to these actions but God's wrath today is revealed against the lawless deeds in the Earth.
3. In the O.T. God's wrath was **towards people** because of their sins. Today, His wrath now is revealed **against ungodliness and unrighteousness** that are committed by people.
4. The wrath of God was revealed towards mankind at the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus took the wrath of God for all the sins of humanity at the cross. His wrath was propitiated in regards to people. Jesus Christ is the propitiation of the wrath of God for the whole world. [1Jn 2:2](#) People do not go to hell today because of their sins. These have been paid for at the cross! They go to hell for the rejection of Jesus Christ as their Savior.
5. God is not imputing men's sins against them today. [2Co 5:19](#) This means God is not directly pouring out is Divine wrath on people for their sins. God is not sending hurricanes, tornado's, and floods to punish people for their sins. He is however revealing his wrath against ungodliness and unrighteousness in the Earth. How? In two ways.

B. **is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men-** lit. **is being revealed** [Gr. **apokaluptos-** *unveiled*]

1. First God is revealing His wrath toward ungodliness and unrighteousness is the consciousness of men's hearts. God has placed within the human consciousness what is right and wrong and that they deserve to be punished and die for their wrongs. [Rom 1:32](#)
2. Secondly, God's wrath against ungodliness and unrighteousness, which is of heavenly origin, is being revealed to us on the Earth by the **authorities he has established** upon the Earth to judge these **acts** of ungodliness and unrighteousness.
2. God has established authorities in the Earth to reveal His wrath against ungodly and unrighteous behaviors.

- a. [Rom 13:1-4](#) - In the same book of Romans, Paul explains that God has set authorities [ex. policemen, judges] in the earth to execute wrath upon acts of evil and those who do it. We should fear the authorities for **wrath's** sake. Whose wrath? God's wrath revealed from heaven by the authorities he has established in the Earth.
- b. The wrath in this verse speaks of **temporal** wrath for ungodly and unrighteous behaviors and not **eternal** wrath revealed at the cross of Jesus Christ. Of course people are connected with these ungodly and unrighteous behaviors and thus they will incur the natural penalties dictated by our courts [ex. *prison terms, capital punishment*]. Each prison on the Earth is a revelation of God's wrath **against ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men. The cross of Jesus Christ however was God's revelation of God's wrath **against mankind** for their sins.

**C. who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**

1. **suppress-** Gr. **katecho-** *kata-* down; **echo-** *to hold-* lit. *who are holding down*

- a. the meaning of this word can be seen in the example of holding an air filled beach ball under the water. You have to really try hard to keep it submerged! If you let it go for a second it, it will explode to the surface. This is true of sinners today. They know in their hearts there is a God. They know they have sinned. They know they deserve to be punished for their sins. However, people are trying really hard to keep this knowledge and truth submerged under the surface of their daily thought life. They try to "drown" these truths with activity, pursuits, sinful pleasures, and addictions. They do not allow themselves to think about the true condition of their lives and life after death.
- b. This is why so many sinners become angry when someone talks about sin or hell. They do not want to think about it.
- c. People already know they are sinners, even the atheists that tell you they do not believe in God. Even atheists know they are sinners and are deserving death. How do I know? Because God said so! [Rom 1:19](#); [Rom 1:32](#) They know this but they are the ones trying the hardest to hold down the truth by their unrighteous lives and thoughts instead of coming to grips with it and seeking a solution.
- d. We need to preach the gospel to sinners. The gospel is good news. The good news is that even though we deserve punishment and hell for our sins, Jesus Christ took both for us so that we do not have to experience them! This sets the sinner free! There is a way out when there appears to be no way out! [Joh 14:6](#) If we will preach the good news of God's grace many sinners will accept the gift of righteousness with gladness! If we preach sin and hell, then sinners will run from us to hide. They already know sin and hell! They need to know the cross, grace, and forgiveness!

19. [Rom 1:19](#) **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.**

**A. because what may be known of God**

1. **known-** Gr. **gnostos-** "*what is well known*"

- a. There are some things that are not very well known about God that relatively few know [ie. *God delights in the prosperity of His servants*], but there are some things that are well known about God, so well known in fact, that every sinner knows them!

**B. is manifest in them**

1. **manifest-** Gr. **phaneros-** *to shine, make evident, clear, or plain*

a. **present tense-** is being made evident, clear, and plain

b. what is being made manifest to sinners is discussed in vs. 20

3. **in them-** *in their inner consciousness*

**C. for God has shown it to them**

1. God has made Himself evident and clear to all men. There will be no man on some remote island that had no knowledge of God's existence. Such a man has never, does not, nor will ever exist!

2. God has given the light concerning Himself to every person that has been born into the Earth. [Joh 1:9](#)

3. God does not desire that any shall perish but all men be saved. [2Pe 3:9](#); [1Ti 2:4](#) Therefore, he has given all men enough light concerning Himself that they can turn and seek Him.