



# ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION

How a Culture Crumbles

Romans 1:16-32

## ROMANS 1:16-32

<sup>16</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> 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.”



<sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For 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.

<sup>21</sup> For 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. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.



<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In 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.



<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> They 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, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.



<sup>32</sup> Although 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.

# CLARIFYING KEY TERMS

- Gospel (12x)  
= good news
- Faith (42x)  
= believing enough to act
- Wrath  
Present tense  
= Abandon – release

# HOW THE COOKIE CRUMBLES

- Step 1: Ignore God (v21)
- Step 2: Redefine God (22-23)
- Step 3: Remove sexual restraints (24-27)
- Step 4: Remove all relational restraints (28-31)
- Step 5: Promote & celebrate sin (32)



## THREE SPECIAL INSIGHTS

1. This not just so we can feel superior to the people who are in the world.
2. This is mean to show us why we need Jesus.
3. The solution:
  - Not to make non-Christians live like Christians
  - To introduce everyone to Jesus



## TO GO:

- How is Paul's understanding of "faith" different from ours?
- How does Romans 1 help us understand the significance of Paul's statement in Galatians 2:20?
- How does Romans 1 impact the way that you see what is going on in America today?
- Homework: Read Romans 2.