

Introduction:

Good Morning...It is good to be here with you all...It is an honor to bring the Word of God here this morning...

If you are a visitor I hope you feel welcomed and warmly greeted...If you are interested in membership or in joining one of the many connecting points here at Calvary I'd love to talk with you following the service today...,

Before we begin our time in Romans let us go to the Lord in prayer...

Let us Pray...

ME:

Please go ahead and turn in your Bibles to Romans 1...Romans 1...Today.....I'd like to talk to you about Needs...About needs...

Ya know we all have needs...We each have daily needs that must be satisfied...

We each have physical needs:

The need to eat...Some of you are probably already thinking about lunch...

The need to drink water...

The need to sleep...Yes please...

But How do you tell if you need to eat? Your stomach growls...Sometimes very loud if the preacher goes to long.....

- How do we know we need to drink water? Thirst, right?

- How do we know we need sleep? We become tired and sleepy...And the only way to quench it is rest...

Transition: But our needs are much more than physiological...We also have the needs for safety...**The need to feel physically safe and financially safe...**

How do we tell that we need physical safety? Fear, right? If you walk down an alley in the shady part of town.....What alerts you for your need for safety? Fear.....Anxiety...

When you hear a strange noise around the house...What do you instantly feel?

Fear...Anxiety... We all have the need for safety and we realize that need through fear...

Transition: Not only do we have physical and safety needs...But we also have the need to belong...To fit in so to speak...

How do we know that we have a need for belonging?

--**Because anywhere you go**...Any event with people around... Whether it is to a wedding shower or to a restaurant, or to church or to school...As soon as you walk into the building or room...What are you instantly concerned with....? Who is here? Where do I sit? Who should I talk to....Who don't I talk to?

Transition: Yet our physical, safety, belonging, and esteem needs are not all the needs we have...

(Personalize the "Me" section by using I and not we...; Also make the We section shorter...)

WE:

In fact, there is a much greater need that many do not realize.....

Every human that has ever walked the face of the earth has a need that goes much deeper than your skin or your bank account...It goes far deeper than your self-esteem or importance in society...

The deepest and most important need for every human that has ever walked the earth is the Need for God...**The Need to understand the one true God**...

How do I know that this is the greatest need of all? Because EVERY HUMAN being that has ever walked the earth wrestles with this very question...No one is neutral on the issue of God... Why does every human being struggle with their "need" to understand the one true God?

#1: Because God has designed us to walk in relationship with Him...I believe God has purposely designed us to need Him and walk with Him...

#2: Think about It: Who gives meaning and purpose to this life? In order to truly understand myself, to understand my meaning and purpose in life.....I must understand The God who made me...who designed me...Because only when I understand God will I then understand why God made me and put me on this earth...

Transition: But there is one more inescapable need...Every human being realizes their need for "good news" for "redemption"...We all walk around this earth and realize that this world is full of difficulty, strife and wickedness...And we each seek to find a way to escape it...

Transition: I imagine everyone of us in this room knows we need God...and knows we need "good news" from God... But I also imagine many of us cannot really answer...Why do I need the Gospel?

Transition: Answer that right where you are...Why do I need the Gospel?...Not why does the world need the Gospel...That is more evident...No, why do you personally need the Gospel?

Transition: Well, this is the exact question that Paul answers today...Before Paul dives into his treatise of the spiritually life giving provision of the Gospel ...Paul first answer the question, “Why do I need the Gospel?”

Transition: So, come back with me to Romans 1...Romans 1...Paul gives us the theme verses for the entire Book of Roman in verses 16-17 And then Paul transitions to our passage today...which is Romans 1:18-32...To answer the question, “Why do I need the Gospel?” And today Paul begins to answer this question with verse 18...

GOD:

Let us begin with verses 18-19...

Read verses 18-19, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.”

Notice a key phrase in verse 18... “For God’s wrath is revealed Against “ALL” of mankind’s ungodliness and unrighteousness...” **From verse 18...What can we tell about God?..... That God dislikes sin...** That God dislikes mankind’s godlessness and unrighteousness

But Wait, that isn’t far enough.....We can tell from verse 18 that God HATES sin...Wait..... that STILL isn’t far enough.....

God does not just hate sin...But God’s wrath BURNS against our sin...It makes his blood boil...GOD IS WRATHFUL toward our sin...IT GOES FAR BEYOND HATE...HE IS WRATHFUL TOWARD OUR SIN, TOWARD YOUR SIN, TOWARD YOUR SIN, TOWARD MY SIN...

Why do I need the Gospel? Point #1: Because God Hates Sin...

Can I pick on us evangelicals a second?

We evangelicals use God’s Love as a bad excuse for us to sin...Oh friends, we are so wrapped up in the warm cozy blanket of God’s love that we dilute God’s HATE for our sin...

We constantly say, “God is a God of Love” therefore I can sin and do what I want...Because God accepts me as I am... NO WAIT A SECOND...GOD HATES SIN...He hates your sin...HIS BLOOD BOILS AGAINST IT...HIS WRATH IS AGAINST IT...HE HATES SIN

SO MUCH THAT HE DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

LET US NOT CHEAPEN GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH THE CLOAK OF OUR IGNORANCE... YES.....GOD LOVES YOU BUT THAT IS **NOT AN EXCUSE TO SIN...**

In fact, His love and forgiveness should be the fuel for us to **REMAIN LOYAL TO HIM AND NOT SIN...**

Transition: Why do I need the Gospe? Point #1: God Hates Sin... But then we must ask
Question #2: Why does God hate our sin?

Notice verse 19... *Read verse 19, "19 because (which signals to us the reason for God's anger) Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them."*

Why do I need the Gospel? Point #2: Because God Revealed Himself And We Still Rejected Him...

#1: God has revealed Himself to us plainly... He reveals to us that He is **GOD AND HE DEMANDS TO BE OBEYED...** **And we still reject Him...** that we'd rather choose unrighteousness and godlessness than Him...

Allow me to put the reason for God's built up wrath toward sin in perspective...

On my side of the family... There was a distant relative that was married to a compulsive spender... The money saving spouse at first was kind and revealed to the compulsive spending spouse the need not to be compulsive and to live on a budget...

So, at the first reveal and conversation I imagine the conversation was nice... But then there was a second reveal "Ok, honey please stop spending money..." and a third conversation... And the compulsive spending problem persisted despite the pleas...

What do you think was the result of being disregarded for years? WRATH... Year after year... Compulsive dollar after dollar that was spent... How did the saving spouse feel? **ANGER... WRATH...**

Now..... imagine being ignored by a compulsive spending spouse for 10,000 years... Imagine the anger and frustration and wrath we would have...

I imagine this is how God feels in verses 18-19... God has revealed (the verb in verse 18 is a Present tense verb... Revealing to something very interesting...) That God has revealed Himself over and over again... He has revealed it plainly that He is God and wishes to be obeyed and yet

we STILL choose to sin....

Transition: But we haven't answered a very important question yet...In verse 18, it says that God has revealed himself...**How** has God revealed Himself? How has God revealed his desire to be obeyed to all mankind? The answer is found in verse 20...

Look at verses 20...Read verse 20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

How has God revealed Himself? He revealed Himself through His invisible attributes which are syntactically...His eternal power and divine nature...

In other words, God has revealed himself to all of mankind...To the indigenous Indians in Indonesia and to the corporate CEOs of fortune 500 companies...How has He revealed Himself? Through his invisible attributes...

In other words, God reveals Himself as we look up and look down...

God reveals himself as we look up...Look up at His eternal power...As we look up at the stars...As we look up at the universe...As we look up, We instantly must say “That there must be a God that created this universe...” “And if there is a God that created the universe then I must obey him...”

But then God also reveals himself as we look down...As we look down at “His divine nature”...As we look around at nature, the complexity of the human body...As we look around at the millions and millions of species of plants and animals...

As we look at “His divine nature” we must arrive at one inevitable conclusion...That there is a God and HE MUST BE OBEYED...

I mean think about His divine nature in humanity...There are 7 billion people on earth and they all began as a single cell...Think about it: That there is enough data in one cell to make an entire human...WOW...

Ladies and gentlemen...It is undeniable...There is a God...AND HE WANTS TO BE OBEYED...

(Do I insert the thought about how all mankind is accountable to God despite not hearing the Gospel?)

Transition: So, we answered three questions thus far...But I have a fourth question that we haven't answered yet...Notice a key phrase 18... "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth ^lin unrighteousness,"

Transition: Question #4: How do we suppress the truth? Paul gives us three ways in verses 21-31 for how we suppress the truth...

Read verses 21-25, "For even though they knew God, (how did they know Him? Verse 20... God revealed it through His invisible attributes).... "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.... "

Why Do I need the Gospel? Point #3: We Suppress God's Truth... How?

Truth #1: Our Impure Hearts seeking to Worship idols...

Notice again what it says...verse 25 gives the summary statement... "For even though they knew God," Verse 25, "They (mankind) exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,"

Mankind suppressed the truth of God by worshipping idols...Mankind.....all of mankind decided instead of worshipping, obeying and following the true God of the universe..... that mankind rather turned to worship creatures...

Why did mankind suppress the truth of God for idols? **To get what they wanted...**If God didn't give mankind what they wanted then they worshipped a God that would...

This was the very practice of ancient Israel...If God did not give them rains for their crops then people of Israel would find a Baal temple prostitute to sexually arouse the idol Baal for him to send rain...*Ancient Israel worshipped idols to get what they wanted...*

Transition: (Clear throat)...Yet, Ancient Israel isn't the only group of people that worship idols when they don't get what they want...

Practically:

Ladies and Gentlemen...Can I poke for just a second? We, today, worship idols when God doesn't give us what we want...

And some of us are saying... "Come on Byron, I don't worship idols...I don't have a gold or wooden statue that I bow too...I worship God..." (Break this out....how we suppress truth by serving idols)

Yet, What are some of the idols we worship today?

We worship our favorite sports team...I've seen this over and over again...That we talk more about our favorite sports team than we do about God...Perhaps when Church and God aren't exciting enough then we settle to evangelize to others regarding our favorite team...

We worship money...Oftentimes Instead of trusting God for our money, we desire control over every aspect of our financial life...We desire to acquire possessions and stuff...To increase our status in life...To appear wealthy at all costs

We worship our children or family...Oftentimes we spend more time concerned for the well-being of our family more than following God...Our family often replaces God...Because we are more concerned with what they think than what God thinks...

We worship politicians...Now, what? Sure we do...Believe it or not...I've seen many people place more trust in the policies of Washington than we do in the providence and grace of God...

Ladies and gentlemen, you and I even today suppress the truth of God for idols...You and I are broken...Depraved...Sinful beings in desperate need of redemption...

Transition: Not only are our hearts impure for idols...but then notice the second example of how our hearts are impure...

Look at verses 26-27, *"For this reason God gave them over to **degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

Our hearts are proven to be impure through idolatry and also in our sexual perversion...Paul uses homosexuality as a second example of the impurity and brokenness of our hearts...

Truth #1: We Suppress God's Truth Through... Our Impure Hearts seeking to Worship idols...and seeking Sexual Perversion....

Now, verses 26-27 in today's era is not politically correct... God designed us to be heterosexual... For a man and woman to be joined and married...

Now, this isn't politically correct for this day and age... But it is the truth... Let us not run from the truth for the sake of being politically correct...

But also let me pause for just a second...

However...I do not believe Paul's intention here is to give us 21st century believers a baseball bat to club people over the head... It is clear that homosexuality is wrong... But let us not pick up a bat and start swinging... The reason I say that... Paul's intention is not to pick on homosexuals... But within the context of the passage, Paul is trying to tell each and every single one of us that we are all broken and depraved... That we all are sexually perverse...

Paul's point here is not to make you feel spiritually superior if you do not struggle with homosexuality... It's actually meant to do the opposite... It is meant to show all of us that we each prove the impurity of our hearts through our struggle with sexual perversion....

Because Jesus' idea of sexual perversion goes far beyond homosexuality but all the way down to your thought life... In an at least one time in your life... We, you and I, have suppressed the truth of God due to your desire for sexual perversion...

WE ARE ALL Broken and perverse... That is Paul's point in reference to idolatry and homosexuality...

Truth #1: We Suppress God's Truth Through... Our Impure Hearts seeking to Worship idols...and seeking Sexual Perversion....

Transition: Not only are our hearts impure but also our minds... Specifically, our minds depraved... Notice verses 28-31

Look at verses 28-31...

"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, "haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; "

Notice what it says in verse 28 for the third time in this passage... *"God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,"* Notice that this one phrase is used

three times in this passage..

God gave mankind over to the lusts of their heart in verse 24, and to their degrading passions in verse 26...and to mankind's depraved mind in verses 28,

But we still have a question to answer...What does it mean that God handed us over? There are three main interpretations for the phrase "God handed them over" that scholars wrestle with...

By handing us over...Some scholars think it means...

#1: That God is impelling people to sin...That God impels us to sin...Yet.....This cannot be because it contradicts God's Perfect Nature and it contradicts the scripture; namely, James 1:13... "Let no one say when he is tempted that I am being tempted by God for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself does not tempt anyone..." So, God handing mankind over cannot mean that He impels us to sin...

Some scholars think it means...

#2: That God is allowing us to sin as a natural process of history...That God is sitting back looking at us from afar allowing our sin to run rampant...As one scholar put it, "That God ceased to hold the boat as it was dragged downstream by the current of the river..." But it seems that God's role is much greater than a clockmaker...Perhaps the best interpretation is #3...

Some scholars think it means...

#3: That God is an active Judge...That God is an active judge...One scholar puts it... "God did not just let the boat go...But God pushed it downstream..." Or another way to say it...God is the judge declaring mankind guilty and then handing us over to their eternal prison...

Brynn Story of Handing Them Over:

Allow me to illustrate the "Handing over..." Many of you perhaps have seen my daughter in the hallway...She is 1.5 years old going on 10 years old...She is sweet but she can be a bit stubborn especially when it come to chalk...Ya know sidewalk chalk?

My daughter loves to draw on anything and everything..... if we let her she would draw on the walls and on the couches...

But she especially loves to color with chalk on the front patio...and she especially loves to take black chalk and draw on the white columns of our house.....Which absolutely drives me crazy because it isn't easy to get off...

So, when she walks toward those columns to draw on them...I of course run after her and say

“Now Brynn no no no...” And as I try to take the chalk out her hand she has a melt down and a hissy fit?

Why? She wants to do what she wants to do...**So sometimes**, instead of taking the chalk from her...I hand her over and allow her to draw on the columns knowing I can clean it up later.....

WITH GOD:

It seems that way with God...He sees that we want to sin... that we are determined to sin...so He allows us knowing HE can and will clean it up later...through the blood of Christ...

Why do we need the Gospel?

Point #1: God HATES Sin...

Point #2: God Revealed Himself And We Still Rejected Him...

Point #3: We Suppress the Truth

How do we suppress the truth/? Truth #1: Our impure heart seeking idols and sexual perversion*...Yet notice the second way we suppress the truth...

Notice what it says again in verse 28... “And just as they did not see fit ^{to} to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a *depraved mind*, to do those things which are not proper,

How do we suppress the Truth? Truth #2: Our Minds are Depraved*...Our very intellect is broken...So, not only are our hearts warped and perverse...But also our minds are completely depraved and broken as well...

What evidence does Paul give for our mind’s depravity? Notice verse 29-31, “*being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, “haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

Ladies and gentlemen...Mankind’s mind...Your mind...My mind...is depraved...Our Hearts are Broken, they are impure and Our minds are depraved...And the evidence for this is that we struggle with wickedness, greed, evil, strife, deceit, insolence, arrogant, and boastful...

Transition: And notice what mankind deserves...Notice what you and I deserve because we chose to suppress the truth of God through our impure hearts and depraved minds...

Look at verse 32... “*And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death...They not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them...*”

Why do we need the Gospel?

Point #4: Our Depraved Souls Are Worthy of Death

Because we choose to seek out idols, because we choose to be sexually perverse, because we choose to be greedy, evil, murderous (hate people), because we decide to be full of strife, deceit and malice.....

Because You and I CHOOSE TO SIN....THEN YOU AND I ARE Worthy of DEATH...
(Repeat)

Why do we deserve death? Because we rejected the life-giving God...Over and over, God has revealed himself through nature through His word, through his son Jesus Christ and yet we still reject Him...and because of that..... We...You and I deserve death...WE do...

If you still don't believe me that you are broken and sinful...That you are a idolater...A sexually perverse...a greedy person...Then answer this one...

Why do you die? If you still don't believe me that you are broken...Then why do you die? Death is the evidence that you and I are sinners.....That you and I's heart, Mind and soul are broken...

Going back to the Garden of Eden, the reason you die is because you rejected God and we each must realize today that our entire being is completely and totally broken...

Our hearts are impure, our mind is depraved and our soul is worthy of DEATH... (Repeat)

Why do we need the Gospel?

Point #1: God HATES Sin...

Point #2: God Revealed Himself And We Still Rejected Him...

Point #3: We Suppress the Truth

Point #4: Our Depraved Souls Are Worthy of Death

Transition: And as I head toward closing...I plan to have a very brief application section...In fact it is only one point of application...

YOU:

My whole purpose for today's message is for each of us to walk away from today's sermon with one certain idea...That you and I, that we, that every person that has ever walked the earth is Broken...That we are sinful...Deserving of eternal and physical death...

Application #1: REALIZE You are Completely broken...Your mind is broken, Your heart is broken and Your soul is broken...Deserving of Death...

I, your pastor, am broken...I am an imperfect sinner...who suppresses the truth...due to my rejection of God...Due to the impurity of my heart...And examples my depravity of his mind by my personal struggle with greed, evil, gossips, slandering...**YOUR PASTOR IS A SINNER and IS BROKEN...AND YOUR PASTOR...IS DESERVING OF DEATH...I DESERVE DEATH...I DESERVE PHYSICAL DEATH and ETERNAL DAMNATION...I do...**”

BUT I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE THIS ROOM that deserves it... We each are broken... We each have impure hearts, depraved minds and souls deserving of death...

Application #2: And Because You and I are Broken...Realize Your Desperate Need for Redemption...

Because we stand justifiably and deservedly condemned and sentenced to hell...And Because I cannot save myself...Then I am in desperate need for Salvation...For redemption...For someone to come Rescue Me...

WE:

Why do I drill this into your head? Why Do I drill the thought that you are broken into your head? Or another way to ask it... Why does Paul at the very beginning of THE EPISTLE THAT IS COMPLETELY CENTERED AROUND THE LIFE GIVING GOSPEL...WHY does PAUL AT THE VERY BEGINNING of Romans SLAP US ALL IN THE FACE TO MAKE US REALIZE THAT WE ARE BROKEN SINNERS?

For this reason...A clear understanding of depravity is required for a clear understanding of Grace...A Clear Understanding of My Depravity that my heart is impure, that my mind is depraved and that my soul deserves death is necessary to fully understand the gift and ramification of the Grace of God...

Listen friends, The worse I think I am..... the greater God's grace truly is...The worse I think I am...The great God's grace is...The lower and worse I think I am the higher and great God's grace to save me is...(illustrate)

As we close, I am going to ask for some audience participation...To drive the point home today...Repeat after me... “I am completely broken and sinful...I have rejected God... Yet...God decided to Save me Anyways...”

Amen...**WOW WHAT A TRUTH...**That God saw me...HE HANDED ME OVER AND I SEEK DEPLORABLE THINGS...AND HE STILL DECIDED TO WIPE AWAY my sins...

Wow what a truth...WOW WHAT A GOD!!