

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



2. Man's Need

Introduction

We have begun to study the Book of Romans and seen that the Apostle Paul speaks about 'the righteousness of God'. Man desperately needs God's righteousness because he is a sinner and this is the focus of the rest of chapter one, and the following two chapters of this letter.

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:18-32

- ☉ Why does the Apostle Paul say that no one has an excuse for not honouring God? Romans 1:18-20

(No one is without excuse because God's invisible qualities, his power and his nature, are seen in creation.)

- ☉ The Word of God says that creation proves the existence of God. Why is it that many people do not believe there is a Creator? Discuss.

- ☉ When men and women don't acknowledge God what will be the result in their lives? Romans 1:21. Also see Ephesians 4:18.

(The result is that their thinking becomes futile and darkened, and they no longer understand things according to the truth. Everything they think will be affected by their sin.)

Now we begin to see a downward spiral. Since man's thinking and understanding is darkened it leads him deeper and deeper into sin. There are four stages mentioned in v22-31, each one going down.

- ☉ What is the first thing that man does as a result of turning from God in verses 22-23?

(Man begins to make images of animals and other men to represent God.)

- ☉ Why do you think man does this? Why is God opposed to man making images?

We are told that man's sin leads him further and further away from God. The next stage in the downward spiral is that man worships and serves these idols he has made and commits sexual sins. Romans 1:24-25

- ☉ What is the next step that man's sin leads him into according to verses 26 and 27? Why do you think this is so serious in God's sight? Discuss.

(It leads to unnatural sexual relationships and this is contrary to the way God created men and women to be.)

- ☸ Finally man becomes 'filled with every kind of wickedness' and is a 'God-hater'. Make a list of all the sinful things man does in verses 29-32.
- ☸ Have you noticed the phrase, 'God gave them over' is used 3 times in these verses? See v24, 26, 28. What does this mean? Also see Psalm 81:12-14.

(It means that God allows man to carry on doing what he wants to do, and the result of his own sin becomes a judgment upon him.)

- ☸ What attitude should we have as God's children towards sin? How do we respond when we hear of someone else doing wrong? What changes do you think you need to make in your life right now?

Conclusion

When we look around us and see the grandeur and beauty of the world we live in, it clearly shows us that there is a creator, and that creator is God. This means that we too are created by God and accountable to him. When men and women refuse to acknowledge God they fall further and further away from him, doing things that God never created them to do. How wonderful that God sent his Son into the world, so we can be forgiven and receive the righteousness that is from him. Let's make sure we don't condone sin and treat it as 'acceptable', but let's make sure we reach out in love to those who don't know the power of God's forgiveness yet.

