

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

My Sin Problem is a God Problem

Summary of Romans Ch. 1-7, part 1

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / September 14, 2014

I John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him. For *all* that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world *is passing away*, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

“...Practically everything that goes on in the world – wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important – has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from Him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out – but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.”

The Message

I. Our Biggest Problem Is a Sin Problem that Brings Us Face to Face with a God Problem

Romans teaches that the fundamental problem in the universe is not poverty or lack of education or women’s rights or animal rights or health care. The biggest problem of all that you see that is wrong is that human beings – all of us – have sinned and fall short of His glory and are entrenched in our own stubborn rebellion against Him - regardless of how ‘nice’ you look on the outside.

Apart from Christ in your life, you’re waging your own quiet war against the glory of God.

Romans 3:9 “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, ‘THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO NOT ONE.’”

Romans 3:22-23 "...For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Sin at its very essence is falling short of the glory of God.

What makes sin sin is not first and foremost that it hurts other people – though it does do that in horrible ways – but that it BLASPHEMES God. It REJECTS God as the ultimate source of goodness and justice and worship in this world. And that is what leads to all kinds of other sins against ourselves and everyone else around us.

In Romans 1:18-32 Paul gave us a horrible glimpse of how this universal sin problem manifests itself in our world and in our individual lives:

Romans 1:18-19 They “...suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known about God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

Romans 1:20 “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.”

Romans 1:22-23 “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things.”

The Message “They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in His hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.”

It's a tragic case of MISDIRECTED worship! And **that's** the ultimate EVIL and the ultimate OUTRAGE in the universe. **That's** the essence of sin. It's AGAINST God. It offends God long before it ever offends or hurts any other human being.

II. **This Sinful Condition of Exchanging the Glory of God Brings Down the Wrath of God on Us!**

Rom. 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **MUCH MORE** having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Despite the fact that He saw all of us standing at the world's tables admiring plastic baubles instead of gazing at His glory and splendor, He sent His Son to die for us.

Put your trust in Him today. Cry out for mercy to be saved. Ask Him to forgive you based on the payment that Christ paid on the cross for your sins.

Those of you who already know Him... Check to see what you're holding onto.

- Are you clutching to some earthly treasure – that's really a bauble – instead than prizing Him as your greatest treasure?

Come to Him, again and again and again and see Him as your greatest treasure in this world - the rock of your righteousness before God and the REALITY of real life.