

What is Going on Between God and Man?

❖ Introduction

- **The First 7 Chapters of Romans gives us a big picture view of how to understand Reality**
 - They explain all the issues we see going on in the world today
 - They explain all the issues we have going on in our own lives today
- **In Romans 1-7 you see the problem for all mankind**
 - You see God's view on things
 - You see what God has done about it
 - You see how man can be made right with God
 - You see how man can grow in their relationship with God
- **Romans 1-7 offers an explanation to the world around us**
 - I encourage you to take the time to seek understanding here...
 - Paul answers so many questions that people have in the church and in the world today
- **Grasping Romans 1-7 will help you grasp many things**
 - It will help you understand why there is so much evil in the world
 - It will help you see why so many religions have it wrong
 - It will help you understand your status before God
 - It will help you understand the mind of God toward you and mankind
- **There are many notable verses that stand out in Romans 7, we cannot get to them all....**
 - But we will try to hit as many as we can

❖ What is the Gospel?

- Paul begins the book excited to preach the gospel to the people in Rome
 - **Romans 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."**
 - Expound
- **So, Paul starts the book out with what he wants to do, and he tells us a little bit about the gospel**
 - Paul will then use the rest of the book digging down deep into the gospel
 - He will tell us why it is so important
 - He will explain it to us
 - He will tell us how to receive it
 - He will tell us what we should do with it once we get it
- **Romans is all about the Gospel**

❖ All the World is Under The Wrath of Almighty God

- **From about 1:18-3:23 Paul goes to great length to make sure everyone knows**
 - They are under the wrath of God...
 - **He does not hold back either...**
 - He wants every single person that has every existed to realize they have no merit on their own
 - **And isn't that the center to every false religion or belief system**
 - They may not even have an official religion name
 - They may be John Doe's belief system that he came up with in his 20 years on earth
 - All of them have this in common...
 - ◆ They have their own merit system... their own way of being good enough for some reason
 - ◆ Or they have a God that just doesn't care what we do and its no big deal
 - Paul goes to great lengths to argue that no one is right with God on their own

- **The pinnacle of his argument is:**
 - Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - Expound
- **He began proving this point by explaining the state of mankind...**
 - Romans 1:18-23 ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
 - This is the world around us as we know it...
 - You may not see it, but this is what has happened...
 - Man has made thousands of belief systems, so they do not have to honor God in Heaven
 - **Now, not everyone is doing this on purpose, nor does everyone fit in every category**
 - But, deep down, people that have yet to “Be Born Again”
 - ◆ And have a relationship with God... they are described here...
 - Obviously there are many children that do not yet understand these things...
 - ◆ But for those who do, this is what they do...
- **Paul wants to make sure we all understand that God’s Wrath is on Mankind...**
 - And it is on Mankind because they have sinned...
 - Romans 2:5-6 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will render to each one according to his works:
- **And there is no one that escapes this reality...**
 - He will say... not the Jewish nation that was given the law of God
 - Not the Gentiles who are the people of other nations...
 - **We are all guilty**
 - Romans 3: 10-12 “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

❖ No Good Works Will Take Away His Wrath

- **If God’s wrath is on all mankind because of their sins...**
 - He wants us to see, that our doing good things, or works of the law, or whatever we call it
 - This will not turn back the wrath of God
- Romans 3:19-20 ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
 - The purpose of God’s law was to stop every mouth from its excuses
 - Who is there in here that has not lied? Or taken something that is not theirs
 - Who is there in here that has honored their parents fully
 - Who is there in here that has not used God’s name loosely and therefore blasphemed Him
 - Who has not hated and been guilty of murder in the heart
 - How many of us have lusted?

- Who in here has not put other things of worship before God?
- Are we not all guilty?
 - Are we not all accountable to God?
- Then Paul says... **For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight,**
 - Not only are we all guilty... we cannot work ourselves out of it...
- **So, if I cannot just start living right so I am right with God... what do I do?**
 - Well, I am glad you asked, because Paul will answer this...
 - Its going to be important that you understand the order of things...
 - Which came first... the chicken or the egg?
 - **Godly Works or Salvation...**
 - Do we do good to be saved? Or are we saved so we can do good?

❖ Faith in Jesus Takes Away God's Wrath

- There are a number of places Paul answers this question...
 - I could have used a number of verses... but I like these
 - Paul doesn't just tell us the truth, he also gives us examples!
- **Romans 4:3-7** ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."
 - Abraham believed God
 - Expound on works and believing
 - Believing and Faith
 - David speaks of forgiveness and covering and not counting sin...
- **How does it happen to me? And How is all of this possible?**
 - **Romans 4:24-25** It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
 - Believe on Jesus, and what He did... and turn from your sin
 - How is it possible? He was delivered for our trespasses... He died on our behalf...
 - Notice the grace of God..
 - **Romans 5:8-9** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
 - Remember the big problem back in chapter 1-3... the wrath of God?
 - Man's biggest problem... well... it is solved here... By the grace of God
 - ◆ **Romans 5:2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- **What have we been talking about here?**
 - Our Justification...
 - Which means being made right with God
- **Then we move on to the next stage...**
 - Sanctification...
 - Being made Holy in the eyes of God
 - **Justification comes first... and it makes Sanctification possible**
 - They are both viewed as complete in the eyes of God...
 - But... We have not yet arrived... we are not yet perfect...

- So, while we are on this earth, we will be going through the process of Sanctification...
- **If you do not understand these two words...**
 - If they are not a part of your regular vocabulary... shame on you
 - Especially if you have been going to church here for the past year...
- **This is what your life is about...**
 - Being made right with God through faith... justification
 - And your progressive growth in holiness... Sanctification...

❖ **Once We are Right with God, Then We Have the Power to Fight Sin**

- **Romans 6:11-13** ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
 - Notice what Paul is saying here...
 - You are not who you used to be...
 - Expound
- **Paul Gives us insight into our battle in Romans 7... he gets very practical**
 - He tells us that there are times he does not understand his actions...
 - Not all the time, but sometimes...
 - He says He wants to do right, but there is sin there
 - He says, what I want to do, I don't do, and what I don't want to do, that I do...
 - **Romans 7:21-25** So I find it **to be a law** that when **I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.** ²² For I **delight** in the law of God, in my **inner** being, ²³ but I see in my **members** another **law waging** war against the **law** of my **mind** and making me **captiv**e to the law of **sin** that **dwells** in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
 - Here is the battle of our sanctification! Don't stop... and don't lose
 - Expound
- **You have to be fighting... if you are not... there are warnings in God's Word...**
 - Warnings that say... maybe you were never in the faith to begin with...
 - We all need to heed those warnings...
- **After Romans 7... Paul writes the most beautiful and grace filled chapter...**

❖ **Romans 8:1-2**

- Our last 2 sermons were on these verses... and I'll recap them next week...
 - He was able to say all he said... especially in chapter 7... because of these verses...
- **Romans 8:1-2** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
 - expound

❖ **Invitation**

- Have you trusted in Who Jesus is and What He has Done and What He has Said?
 - Have you turned away from sin and a wrong view of Jesus
 - To follow Christ... if not... today should be the day