

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: TOWARD A NEW CREATION
UNIT ONE – JUDGMENT AND SALVATION

“A VIEW FROM WITHIN THE HUMAN HEART WITHOUT GOD”



Sunday School Lesson No. IV – June 26, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Romans 1:18-32

Required Reading: Romans 1:1-32

Motto Text: Genesis 1:31 (NLT), “Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.”
Romans 1:20 (NLT), “For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”

Reliable Resources: All the Books and Chapters of the Bible (H. Lockyer); Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible (Dr. David Jeremiah); Expository Notes and Outlines on the Book of Romans (E. C. Gillentine); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing)

INTRODUCTION

According to Dr. David Jeremiah’s book, Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible: “Many church-goers today don’t want much doctrine to seep into their thinking. They want nice stories, uplifting platitudes, and fluffy comments on favorite verses. Well, they’d better not open the book of Romans! In the sixteen chapters of this epistle, the apostle Paul sets forth the core theology of Christianity. This is the first great doctrinal book in the New Testament, and a first-century course in biblical doctrine. It’s a vital follow-up to the historical facts in the Gospels.

In its broad outline, Romans is easy to follow. Its first eleven chapters explain how God justifies us or makes us righteous through Christ. Working our way through these chapters, we see how humanity is corrupted beyond human remedy, how God makes righteous through Christ, how we have freedom from the power of sin through the Holy Spirit, and how God offers the blessings of righteousness to Gentiles by grafting us into the living promises given to Israel.”

E. C. Gillentine explores Paul’s purpose for writing this great epistle: “The theme of the book as a whole is, ‘The Gospel of God’ or ‘Salvation through Faith,’ Rom. 1:1. The key to the book is ‘The Righteousness of God,’ Rom. 1:17; 3:21, 22. The Book of Romans falls naturally into four divisions, or parts, which may be indicated and easily remembered by the use of four ‘key words,’

1. Sin. 1:1 to 3:20
2. Righteousness. 3:21 – 8:39
3. Vindication. Chapters 9 – 11
4. Walk. Chapters 12 – 16”

Finally, A. C. Gaebelein in the Annotated Bible divides this letter into three parts:

- I. Doctrinal. The Salvation of God. Chs. 1-8
- II. Dispensational. God's Dealings with Israel. Chs. 9-11
- III. Exhortations and Conclusion. Chs. 12-16."

Many things have been said about the heart of the human being. But what can we discern about a heart without God? Paul exposes such a situation and the results are without question, devastating!

Anticipated Power Points:

- **A Duped Heart. Romans 1:18-20**
- **A Darkened Heart. Romans 1:21-23**
- **A Depraved Heart. Romans 1:24-32**

LESSON OUTLINE

"A View from Within the Human Heart Without God"

Matthew 15:19 (NLT) shares, *"For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander."*

I. A Duped Heart. Romans 1:18-20

The Creation account teaches us that the Sovereign God created everything that was made. Genesis 1:31, *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* Everything was made by Him through the Person of Jesus Christ the Word. John 1:1-3 (NLT), *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him."*

But something happened! As the progression of time flowed, Satan undermined the heart of mankind with his lies and mankind corrupted himself and turned his heart from the Lord. The heart of humanity was duped and would no longer acknowledge the Sovereign God, seeking to make gods of anything. This led the Almighty to a place of declaring His justice towards the sins of mankind. God will not be mocked! (Read Galatians 6:7). Beloved, only a duped heart would be blind enough to miss the glory and fingerprint of God! (Read Eccl. 7:29; Ps. 53:1; Jer. 17:9-10).

II. A Darkened Heart. Romans 1:21-23 (NLT)

The shadow-darkened heart of mankind has poisoned his thinking and God has given humanity over to the folly of its own devices. *"God gave them up."* The end result was apostasy, because man sought to "change the label" that God put in place. Those who would refuse the truth are totally destined to darkness. Proof and result of a darkened heart was in Noah and Lot's day. In all cases, *"God gave them up... (v. 24) to uncleanness, (v. 26) vile affections, (v. 28) to a reprobate mind."*

III. A Depraved Heart. Romans 1:24-32

According to E. C. Gillentine, "verses 24-32 show the notorious wickedness of man in his natural state and God's displeasure against it. Man in his natural state, has been known to amuse himself by pulling the legs and wings from birds and insects. Awful, you say? Indeed, it is! But in this connection read Jeremiah 17:9...Man, in his natural state, unaided by God, is incurably sick. Verse 32 shows that it is just as sinful to get pleasure out of seeing others do wrong as it is to do wrong yourself."

A depraved heart will cultivate and produce all the vile, wicked sins here mentioned and all of their diabolical cousins and offspring. Beloved as I close, don't be a part of the results of a depraved heart. Read them and define them for yourself. (vv. 29-31).

CLOSING

May God please help us with a heart transplant. Margaret Douroux declared: *"Give me a clean heart, so I may serve Thee!"*

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Looking Ahead: July 3, 2016 Romans 2:17-29



Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School Lesson