# “Understanding Unbelief (Part 2)—The Sad History of Mankind Spurning God”

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Romans

# Pastor John Mulligan

# Romans 1:18-32 (ESV)

**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.

**24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**26**For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27**and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

**28**And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29**They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30**slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31**foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32**Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

**1) Impure Passions (Verse 24-25)**

**We exchange the truth about God and worship created things—not Him.**

**24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

# Psalm 139:1-17 (ESV)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
**2**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
    you discern my thoughts from afar.
**3**You search out my path and my lying down
    and are acquainted with all my ways.
**4**Even before a word is on my tongue,
    behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
**5**You hem me in, behind and before,
    and lay your hand upon me.
**6**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
    it is high; I cannot attain it.

**7**Where shall I go from your Spirit?
    Or where shall I flee from your presence?
**8**If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
    If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
**9**If I take the wings of the morning
    and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
**10**even there your hand shall lead me,
    and your right hand shall hold me.
**11**If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
    and the light about me be night,”
**12**even the darkness is not dark to you;
    the night is bright as the day,
    for darkness is as light with you.

**13**For you formed my inward parts;
    you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
**14**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
    my soul knows it very well.
**15**My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
    intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
**16**Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
    the days that were formed for me,
    when as yet there was none of them.

**17**How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
    How vast is the sum of them!

**2) Indecent sexual acts (Verse 26-27)**

**We exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural and degrading ones**

**26**For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27**and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

# Galatians 6:7-9 (ESV)

**7**Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**8**For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9**And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

**3) Indulgent mindsets (Verse 28-32)**

**We express debased thinking and practices—destroying relationships.**

**28**And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29**They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30**slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31**foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32**Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

**Is there Hope? YES!**

# Romans 5:8-9 (ESV)

**8**but God shows [expresses] his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**9**Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

# 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)

**9**Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10**nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11**And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

# Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

**18**“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
    they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
    they shall become like wool.