

Without Excuse
Romans 1:18-23

Getting Started

- ❖ One of our “Covenant Question Marks” asks, “When do I engage with God throughout the day and week?” Thinking about that question, as a group begin by discussing:
 - True or False: “I know how to study the Bible.” Explain your answer
 - Describe the personal worship activity that feeds and encourages your soul the most. How often during the week do you partake of this practice?
 - What would you say is the biggest obstacle you face to engaging with God throughout the week?
- ❖ Opening Prayer Time: Break into groups of 2 or 3. Share the biggest burden in your life at this time which you would like prayer for. Pray for one another’s burdens and that God would give us the grace and power we need to daily worship Him.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Read Romans 1:18-23.**
 - How do we typically visualize “wrath”? What did Jerry say the word for “wrath” (Greek word is “orge”) in Romans 1:18 meant?
 - In what ways should the wrath of God bring comfort to us? Or unsettle us?
 - In what ways can we plainly see God in creation and General Revelation?
 - Why is General Revelation sufficient to condemn humanity but not to save?
 - The word “honor” in verse 21 is actually “glorify”. What does this word mean and what does it look like and not look like to glorify God in our lives? Why does God respond with wrath to humanity when we do not glorify Him?
 - Also in Verse 21, there is an indictment against thanklessness and taking God for granted. Os Guinness writes, “rebellion against God does not begin with the clenched fist of atheism but with the self-satisfied heart of the one for whom ‘thank you’ is redundant.” Why do you think the slide to either literal or functional atheism begins with thanklessness?
 - Verse 23 speaks of the idolatry of their time. What is idolatry and what does it look like in modern day America?
- ❖ **Let’s go deeper into the “wrath of God”:**
 - Becky Pippert in her book, *Hope Has Its Reasons*, writes, “Think how we feel when we see someone we love ravaged by unwise actions or relationships. Do we respond with benign tolerance as we might toward strangers? Far from it.... Anger isn’t the opposite of love. Hate is, and the final form of hate is indifference... If I, a flawed narcissistic sinful woman, can feel this much pain and anger over someone’s condition, how much more a morally perfect God who made them? God’s wrath is not a cranky explosion, but his settled opposition to the cancer of sin which is eating out the insides of the human race he loves with his whole being.”

(Over)

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- With Pippert's quote in mind read **Isaiah 12; Isaiah 54:8-10; Ps. 30:4-12.**
 - Does it initially strike you as a contradiction that God's love and wrath work in tandem?
 - How do these passages show the intertwining of God's wrath, holiness and love? How do God's wrath and holiness work together? How do His wrath and love work together?
 - How should this inform our understanding of God's wrath. Does this paint a different picture of God's wrath than popular conceptions or misconceptions?

Think About It!

"Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of his holiness." (John Murray)

Praying Together

As we enter into our annual Missions Conference season, let's pray that God would move among us and our church to spread the gospel among the nations to see His name glorified among the people of the earth.

- Take a few minutes and pray for these church-planting movement Leaders with whom we partner. Pray for them personally (marriages, families, etc) and that the churches they are planting and leading will thrive. All of the movement leaders emphasize leadership development so pray God would use them to raise up new generations of church planters and ministry workers.
 - India--- Khen & Ruth Thombing; Vijay Raju
 - Japan: Dan & Carol Iverson
 - Philippines: Laurence Gatawa & Arthur Panopio
 - Ecuador: Japheth & Monica Light
 - England: Amjad & Sarah Mahand
 - America: Dony St. Germain (Haitian Ministry)
- Pray that God would move among us as His people to generously give above our normal tithes and offerings to support our Faith Promise Missions ministry. Especially pray that God would give us the faith to trust Him to provide the financial resources to help us plant more churches over the next 12 months.

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

September 29, 2019 | 16th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SONGS

CANNONS

Words and Music by Phil Wickham, 2007

It's falling from the clouds a strange and lovely sound,
I hear it in the thunder and rain.

It's ringing in the skies like cannons in the night
as the music of the universe plays.

*You are holy, great and mighty; the moon and the stars
declare who you are. I'm so unworthy but still you love me,
Forever my heart will sing of how great you are.*

Beautiful and free the song of galaxies,
reaching far beyond the Milky Way.
Let's join in with the sound; come on let's sing it out
As the music of the universe plays.

YES I WILL

***Words and Music by Eddie Hoagland, Mia Fieldes,
and Jonathan Smith, 2018***

I count on one thing: the same God that never fails
will not fail me now, You won't fail me now.
In the waiting, the same God who's never late
is working all things out. You're working all things out.

*Yes, I will lift You high in the lowest valley.
Yes, I will bless Your name.
Yes, I will sing for joy when my heart is heavy.
All my days, yes, I will.*

I choose to praise, to glorify, glorify,
the name of all names that nothing can stand against.

BE THOU MY VISION

Ancient Irish Poem | Traditional Irish Melody

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence, my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart:
High King of heaven, my treasure, thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won;
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

THE SAME LOVE

Words and Music by Paul Baloche and Michael Rossback, 2011

You choose the humble and raise them high;
You choose the weak and make them strong;
You heal our brokenness inside and give us life.

*The same love that set the captives free,
the same love that opened eyes to see is calling us all by name;
You are calling us all by name.
The same God that spread the heavens wide,
the same God that was crucified is calling us all by name;
You are calling us all by name.*

You take the faithless one aside
and speak the words, "You are mine."
You call the cynic and the proud, "Come to me now."

You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross. (2x)

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 108; 2 Kings 17:1-18; Acts 9:36-43; Luke 5:1-11
MONDAY | Ps. 62; 2 Kings 17:24-41; 1 Cor. 7:25-31; Matt. 6:25-34
TUESDAY | Ps. 12; 2 Chron. 30:1-27; 1 Cor. 7:32-40; Matt. 7:1-12
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 96; 2 Kings 18:9-25; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Matt. 7:13-21
THURSDAY | Ps. 116; 2 Kings 18:28-37; 1 Cor. 9:1-15; Matt. 7:22-29
FRIDAY | Ps. 84; 2 Kings 19:1-20; 1 Cor. 9:16-27; Matthew 8:1-17
SATURDAY | Ps. 63; 2 Kings 19:21-36; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Matt. 8:18-27

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Holy God, may our hope be only in you.
Forgive us when we become complacent and forget
your power, might, and heart for those in need.
You are the one who made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them. You keep your promises forever;
you execute justice for the oppressed; and you give food
to the hungry. Help us to be vessels of your grace,
not setting our hearts on the uncertainty of wealth,
but seeking the riches of good works and generosity,
that we may take hold of that which is truly life.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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