

Searching the Scriptures

“Search the Scriptures...They are they which testify of Me.” John 5:39

Author: Bob Moses

Commentary

on

Romans Chapter One

Paul begins this Epistle in a greeting to the Church of Rome, which was his accustomed introduction. Vs. 1 & 2; *“Paul a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God. (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures). Note Acts 9:15; “But the Lord said unto him (Ananias) regarding Paul; Go thy way; for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.”* For further understanding read Chapter 9 of Acts, vs. 1- through 15. Paul is here establishing his credentials, for the Church at Rome, and conveying to them his vested authority.

Vs. 3—6: *“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.”* Now, Paul declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and confirms His blood-line according to the flesh, back to the seed of David (for the sake of the Jews). Further he instructs the people that Jesus has the power of God, according to the spirit of holiness, (how?) by the resurrection from the dead.

Having revealed his authority as an Apostle and the Headship of Jesus Christ over the Church, Paul begins his greeting. Vs. 7—15; *“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my god through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; that is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”*

Paul longs to visit the Church of Rome, but has been delayed by preaching to the Greeks and the Barbarians. Some of which, were saved and some not. Yet he is anxious To get to Rome to preach the Gospel to them and teach them some of the doctrines of Christianity.

Vs. 16 & 17: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Gentile). For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith”*. One might ask, then, what is faith? Webster’s Dictionary states that faith is, “an allegiance to duty or a person: loyalty: belief and trust in God: complete trust: a system of religious beliefs.” In other words Paul is telling the Church of Rome, that Christ is the power of God unto salvation, as the just shall live by faith. To reiterate, what this writer has said from the beginning of this ministry, we must have faith, for faith faileth not. Seeing is not faith, for by seeing, we have proof because our eyes have seen. On the other hand faith comes by believing that which we have not seen. Therefore, do we receive the utmost blessing from God, because we believe by faith, not by sight. This is the message Paul felt imperative to deliver to the Church of Rome. The fact that they were on the right tract and their belief in Christ was the mainstay of their compass to His Holy Kingdom; was manifested by their “faith” in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

Next we see the ungodliness and unrighteousness of man revealed. In verses 18-20 Paul states; *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness: Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them: for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”* The modern day Christian may wonder, what in the world does this mean? The answer is once again so simple that we do not get it. Let us begin with the fact that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven.

Was not Adam expelled from the Garden of Eden because of his ungodliness and unrighteousness toward God, as he preferred the word of Satan rather than that of God? Did not God command Adam to not eat of the tree of knowledge? The entire earth was placed in the hands of Adam, and yet he listened to Eve and the serpent, rather than obey the command of God. The wrath of God sent Adam away from His presence due to Adam’s disobedience. In other words Adam held the truth of God in unrighteousness, and followed Satan in ungodliness, by partaking of the tree, which God had forbidden. As if to underscore the unrighteousness of men, God destroyed the earth by the flood, of which, only Noah and his family survived. Then God set apart His chosen people through Abraham, and they too disobeyed God; even further, God delivered them from Egyptian bondage through Moses. And they also disobeyed God, through ungodliness and unrighteousness, going so far as to build a “golden calf” to worship, rather than God Himself. All this information was handed down through the ages even to the Scribes and

Pharisees, of the times of Paul. Thus Paul says: *“that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.*

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (the earth itself, the expulsion of Adam, the deluge of Noah, the chosen ones of Abraham, the deliverance of Israel, etc.) even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse”.

My Christian friend, we too, have no excuse. We have before us the Holy Scriptures, bound into a Book, known as the Holy Bible, and printed in our language. If these men had no excuse, how will we fare, as we stand before the judgment seat of God? *“That which may be known of God is manifest in them: for God hath showed it unto them.”* I leave it up to you, to ponder the consequence of, your own conscience.

Vs. 21-23: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God; neither were thankful: but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools; and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Paul is referring here to idols. One may say, “I have no idols such as this in my house”. I ask, who or what, are your idols? Would you consider your television, your I-pad, your sport figures, your house, your station in life, your career, the possessions you own? What, indeed, are your idols? What is your passion, what keeps you from learning about God, and all His marvelous blessings? Anything that supersedes God or Christ from your life becomes an idol of one sort or another. Please do not misunderstand. There is nothing wrong about watching a movie, or a ballgame, or whatever you consider entertainment, the error comes in, when it becomes overbearing and so distracting, that you neglect your Christian responsibilities. I also, enjoy various venues of entertainment, as well as devotion to my vocation. Nevertheless, I also insure that I spend significant time in study of the Holy Scriptures. If I intend to spend eternity with my Lord, I certainly feel it necessary to learn what His Kingdom is all about, and how I might contribute to His service, when I get there.

As if the condemnation of man is yet not enough, let us visit the verses of Roman’s Chapter One through the eyes of verses 24 & 25.: *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen.* Again, what are we to make of this? Have you by any chance noticed the so-called “green” movement of our day, or perhaps the “global warming alarm”? Are we once again placing the creation above the Creator? I am not convinced that God will allow mankind to destroy His creation. He will destroy it at His own goodwill and providence. And He will destroy it; as the Book of Revelation, plainly demonstrates. But, not by mankind. God creates, and God destroys, as is, His own sovereign prerogative.

Further, as if the above paragraph spoken by Paul was not yet sufficient for the condemnation of man against God, let us proceed to verses 26-28; *“For this cause gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”* Does this ring any kind of bell to our readers? Have you heard of “gay-rights”, in our society today”? This behavior is exactly what Paul was talking about in this Epistle to Rome. As the Book of Ecclesiastes states in Chapter One verse 9: *“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun”*. Therefore what we are experiencing here, is not something new or different. It is the same ungodliness which has been experienced throughout the ages. It is a turning away from God to the wiles of Satan and his emissaries. An ungodliness, and unrighteousness, that is rampant among mankind as a whole, even unto this day. Even Christians allow themselves to be lured into this abyss of destruction, which we will see, as this commentary develops.

These final verses of chapter one, somewhat put the icing upon the cake. Observe closely the unrighteousness revealed through the words of the apostle. Vs. 28-32: *(And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to those things which are not convenient: Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers: backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”)*

Hello!! Is anybody listening? Do we not see these things right before our very eyes? Look at our political leaders, look at our neighbors, look, at ourselves in the mirror. Does anything resonate? Have we become the same, do we proclaim to be better; our eyes more clear? Because we are more educated, are we more astute, or most certainly, above our ancestors? I think not. I think we are on the same path as they. Do you know of anyone or any person who falls into any of the categories listed above? What is your assessment? Are we indeed, following the path, to God? Being in the death-care industry, of cemeteries and funeral homes, I am constantly besieged by some children who circumvent the wills of their parents for monetary gain. Let the Old Man or Old Woman be cremated, so that we can get by cheaper, as opposed to a traditional entombment or burial, and whatever money is left will be given to us. This falls in the realm of being reprehensible. Not because myself or my peers might profit, but because of the loss any form of dignity, toward the deceased and the sole disregard to their wishes as parents. Indeed, the disobedience to parents, comes foremost to my mind because, I encounter it almost on a daily basis, and it is a shame upon our society today.