



# Romans

**Right With God**

## **Bad News - Part Two**

**Lesson Eleven**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Eleven

Page 2 of 4

### Bad News—Part Two

We continue the series of lessons on God's wrath. As we said last week, if we are to be true to the Gospel, we must consider everything God says to us. And in Chapter 1, verse 18 through chapter 2, verse 29, Paul is very specific about God's hatred of sin. (The lesson writer suggests class time reading of Romans 1:21-26a; 28-32.)

In 1:21—23, Paul tells about the sin that is deadly; that is, it condemns humans to eternal death. It is also the sin which leads God to sentence humans to less than the best life here on earth. (Verses 24-32) That sin is the refusal by humans to acknowledge God and instead create our own gods that look like humans, birds animals and reptiles. This is called idolatry elsewhere in the Bible.\*

In these verses, Paul says three times that God “gave them over.” (Verses 24, 26, 28) This phrase literally means God passed sentence on them...they were found guilty and God delivered them to the punishment they deserve. Paul specifies three things to which we are given over: Verse 24—sexual impurity; Verse 26—shameful lusts; Verse 28 a depraved mind.

Let's first consider sexual impurity. Since there was significant sexual activity (prostitution) in the practice of some religions of the day, Paul is most likely referring to this, since he says that “they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator...”

In the referral to shameful lusts, it is obvious that he refers to homosexuality. He speaks of both men and women in unnatural relations with one another.

The final “giving over” is to depraved minds. He says that since they didn't think it was necessary to acknowledge God, He let them run loose...do whatever they chose to do. And what they chose to do was evil. Paul chose to include a whole long list of sins:

**Wickedness:** worshipping humanity instead of God

**Evil:** a bad person who wants to make everyone else bad. A word used to describe Satan

**Greed:** the desire to have everything, whether you need it or not

**Depravity:** a person with nothing which would make them good...totally bad

**Envy:** a warped and twisted human emotion that resents good in someone else

**Murder:** killing someone, or as Jesus said, (Matthew 5:21, 22) the desire to hurt someone

**Strife:** the jealous, ambitious person motivates conflict

**Deceit:** a person never does anything without ulterior motive, stooping to devious methods

**Malice:** evil nature, maliciously putting the worst interpretation on things

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Eleven

Page 3 of 4

**Gossips:** whispering character-destroying stories about someone

**Slanderers:** loudly proclaiming their evil, bad news about someone

**God-haters:** they see God as the barrier that keeps them from doing everything they want

**Insolent:** so confident of themselves, they can do whatever they want without God

**Arrogant:** Boastful, God hates this—I Peter 5:5

**Inventors of Evil:** work on new ways to do bad things, just for the thrill of it

**Disobey Parents:** One of the Ten Commandments

**Senseless:** without understanding, resist learning from teachers or even their own experience

**Faithless:** they break agreements, you can't trust them

**Heartless:** the natural bonds of human affection are destroyed

**Ruthless:** no mercy, have no care for the feelings of others, not even human life.

The message of Paul is that God “gave them over” to the consequences of their sin. The *bad news* is that all the pleasure, all the happiness they will ever have is the product of their sin.

**Scripture Memory: “For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God, nor gave thanks to Him...” Romans 1:21a**

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal: To help students to understand that God judges sin, even here on earth.***

1. The subject matter of this lesson is most difficult. The teacher would be wise to consider the content of the lesson and the age level of the students. Some adaptation of words may be necessary for younger students.
2. We must always remember that, whatever happens here on earth, whatever sin we involve ourselves in, the decision as to whether we go to Heaven or Hell when we die is totally dependent on asking Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. All the sins listed above are forgivable.
3. We need to follow Paul's argument here. There is no need to complicate it with presumption or speculation. Paul says that these persons, sinning as he has stated, are delivered to the results of their sin now, in time...not after death.
4. What we have in our Scripture for today is the most awful description of what happens to a person when they leave God out. When God is banished from a life, one becomes far less than what God intended for humanity. Adam and Eve chose to sin and that changed things forever. No longer were humans the perfect creation of God, we live in our own terrible sin. God has given humans over to it. Without Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, we can only hope for more of the same.
5. This is the picture of what happens to humans who have no god. And, on this sad note, we must be reminded that not only do humans banish God from their lives, according to Paul, they encourage others to do the same.
6. Paul repeated the same charge three times just prior to saying God gave them over. He says in verse 25 that “they worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.” In verse 26, he refers back to the charge in verse 25. And finally, in verse 28, “they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.” The sin is neglecting God, and that brings on all other sin.
7. Most of the ideas related to the long list of sins, verses 29-31, are from William Barclay, in his Daily Study Bible Series. See commentary on “The Letter to the Romans,” pages 26-33.

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Eleven

Page 4 of 4

### *Student Worksheet*

## Bad News—Part Two

=Paul tells about the \_\_\_\_\_ that is deadly. It is the refusal by humans to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_ and instead create our own gods that look like \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, animals and \_\_\_\_\_

This is called \_\_\_\_\_ elsewhere in the Bible.

=Paul specifies three things to which we are given over: Verse 24—sexual \_\_\_\_\_;

Verse 26—\_\_\_\_\_ lusts; Verse 28 a \_\_\_\_\_ mind.

=The final “giving over” is to depraved \_\_\_\_\_. He says that since they didn’t think it was necessary to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_, He let them run loose...do whatever they \_\_\_\_\_ to do. And what they chose to do was \_\_\_\_\_. Paul chose to include a long list of \_\_\_\_\_.

=Paul said that God “gave them over” to the consequences of their \_\_\_\_\_. The *bad news* is that all the \_\_\_\_\_, all the \_\_\_\_\_ they will ever have is the product of their sin.

**Scripture Memory: “For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God, nor gave thanks to Him...” Romans 1:21a**

#### **A Roman Road to Salvation:**

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

**Romans 6:23a** “For the wages of sin is death.” The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, and that payment is death.

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

**Romans 6:23b** “But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The debt for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, paid that debt and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 10** “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that “God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead” is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, “Jesus is Lord,” as a statement of faith. Believing “with your heart” means that you believe with your mind and with all that you are.

**Romans 10:13** “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God’s child and have eternal life.

**Romans 12:1, 2** “I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.