

Theme:

Righteousness of God 1:16-17

God's saving action in history

Final act in the death of Jesus Christ as the world's sin offering

Purpose:

Righteousness is the free gift of God to men who have faith

To those Paul was writing, righteousness was a work to be performed under the Law

A meritorious achievement.

Legalism is not dead

Legalism is a self-made man

Attempt to run our own lives and earn our own salvation

To be good without God

Paul's background in keeping the Law – Pharisees

Tendency in all religions.

Gospel:

The Gospel does not have **power**, it is power - Power not process

Power at work

God is the Source of our Righteousness but the power is only released by the proclamation of Christ Crucified.

*1 Cor 1:18 "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*

The Gospel brings God's Salvation (Deliverance)

Salvation has its beginnings in Prevenient grace

Awakening

Conviction of Sin

Salvation in faith brings justification

Pardon

Acceptance

Regeneration

New life in the Spirit

*I have been saved, Eph 2:8-9, 1 Cor 15:2, 2 Tim 1:9*

*I am being saved, 1 Cor 1:18, Phil 2:12-13*

*I shall be saved Rom 5:9, Rom 13:10, 1 Peter 1:3-5*

The Gospel reveals God's Righteousness V17

The gospel is God's power to salvation because in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed

Our salvation is first and foremost based on Righteousness

Signs and placards John 3:16

Righteousness is first, Love second

God's demand for righteousness

God abhors Sin because of his own righteousness

His plan, his Gospel, His power unto salvation is the only thing that will allow God to be God and man to become righteous.

It is not God coming down to our level but God pulling us up to his level

## The wrath and the righteousness of God. Rom 1:18-25

### The Reality of God's Wrath

The picture of God is so sweet. Sentimental.

But there has and always has been a Wrath  
The judgement of the Holy One upon sin in every form  
A vital part of the biblical picture of God

Because God is God, His wrath is the form love takes with those who oppose it.

Wrath is not hate!  
Hate is unjust, Wrath is just  
Hate seeks to destroy, Wrath forgives  
Hate is condemnation, Wrath offers acquittal

Because Man is man

Insurmountable impasse with the nature of God  
Man responsible before God  
Man experiences either the wrath of God or the righteousness of God  
God's love or God's displeasure  
God's favor or his Judgement

"Martin Luther: In Christ God is love, Outside of Christ our God is a consuming fire.

### The reason for God's wrath 19:23

The wrathful (the fallen man) refuses to acknowledge God.  
Man refuses to acknowledge God because he does not want God to rule over him  
When man eliminates God it is because Man wants to be God  
I want to be in charge  
I can be good enough  
A attempt at autonomy  
Man's delusion of self-omnipotence.

*Secular Humanism -belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God.*  
Secular humanism posits that human beings are capable of being ethical and moral without religion or a [god](#).

***When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heard was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. 21-22***

### The Result of God's Wrath 24-25

When man eliminates God,  
When man will not let God be God  
When we put God into a sweet light of promotion.  
When we emphasize God's Love over his Wrath

*God is too loving to condemn*

*Man is too Good to be condemned*

God has but one choice demanded by his nature:

Abandonment to our vices, our vicious impulses. 24,26,28 Gave them up

God can do no other.

God must respect the free choice he has given to man.

If man wants to reject God

God will Give them up.

***It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God***

***But it is a much more fearful thing to fall out of them.***

***And still... man can break away, and fall from the hands of God***

***Into himself alone, down the godless plunge of the abyss,***

***A god-lost creature turning upon himself***

***In the long, long fall, revolving upon himself***

***In the endless writhe of the last, and last self-knowledge***

***Which he can never reach till he touches the bottom of the abyss***

***Which he can never touch, for the abyss is bottomless***

***Wo it wriggles its way ever further down, further down***

***At last in sheer horror of not being to leave off***

***Knowing itself, knowing itself be from God falling.***