

The “wrath of God” need not be the final word!

The “power of God” in “the gospel” works to “renew the mind”–  
and enable people to live “pleasing to God.” (12:1-2)

The “power of God” in “the gospel” makes it possible for us to  
love sinners like Jesus did–and does.

Going deeper in the word...

1. How is “the wrath of God” being “revealed” in our world today?
2. Do we think some people are “worse sinners” than ourselves?
3. How did Jesus model God’s love for sinners? Who received His harshest criticism?
4. How can we practice “grace and truth” in a world growing more and more tolerant of sin?
5. What must we do in our personal lives–to battle sin and pursue God’s design in all things?

in the word



# romans

## THE GOSPEL OF GOD

### God Gave Them Over

Romans 1:24-32

<sup>16</sup> *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...*

<sup>17</sup> *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed...*

God’s “righteousness” includes both His “salvation” and His “wrath.”

<sup>18</sup> *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*

“The wrath of God” is:

“against” all godlessness and wickedness (18)

because men “suppress the truth” (18)

rejecting the revelation of God (19-20)

refusing to glorify God or give thanks (21)

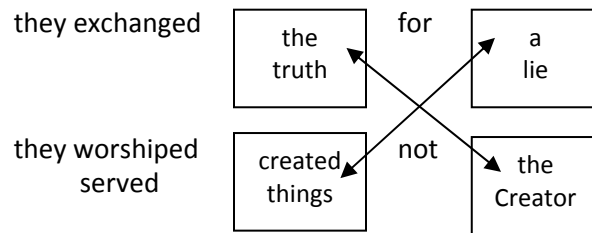
exchanging the glory of God for images. (23)

“The wrath of God” is revealed by God “giving them over” to the sin they have chosen.

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

<sup>25</sup> *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

Why did God “give them over”?



<sup>26</sup> *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.*

<sup>27</sup> *In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

Is this about homosexuality?

Why does Paul focus on homosexuality here?

Not because it is “the worst sin”—but because it clearly illustrates rejecting God’s design and “exchanging” it for another.

<sup>28</sup> *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

<sup>29</sup> *They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.*

*They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;*

<sup>31</sup> *they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*

<sup>32</sup> *Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*