

Series Theme:

Seeing Jesus as your salvation will stir your love for him.

ONE: We define the Gospel by both its foundation & its fruit.

1.1-6

Set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand... concerning his Son... from David according to the flesh... declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith.

TWO: To live by faith is to live by the Lord's faithfulness in Christ Jesus, the power of God to restore hearts to worship God.

1.16-17

The Gospel brings forgiveness with fruit that fulfils God's purpose.

THREE: God in both his love and his wrath guarantees that what is wrong will be put right so that worshipping God brings peace and prosperity to the earth.

1.18-32

God's wrath is not an uncontrollable, destructive emotion directed against those God dislikes. Wrath describes His just, holy response to sin and rebellion. From human perspective shaped in a world permeated by sin and injustice, wrath and love are seen as polar opposites. In God, however, there is no conflict between His great love and His terrible wrath. Most human beings know that something is wrong with the world, and there is a deep longing that it be put right. (*The Apologetics Study Bible @ Romans 1*)

A. **Ungodliness** (commandments 1-4) and **unrighteousness** (commandments 5-10) bring distortion both to our view of the image of God and to God's image in men and women. 1.18

B. Worshiping creation & creature exchanges glory for much less. 1.19-22

C. Homosexualities are simply one aspect of God's not restraining us in (giving us *up* or *over*) our lusts, passions & debasings so we and others might see the fruit & end of our warping our humanity. 1.24, 26, 28

[Regarding *homosexualities* see Jeffrey Satinover's *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, Baker Books, 1996]

D. A debased, not-meeting-the-test, depraved mind leads both pagans and religious Jews and religious Christians to all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness and malice. 1.28-32

envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, gossip, slander, haters of God, insolence, haughtiness, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless: knowing they deserve to die for practicing such things nevertheless they encourage others to do them, too.

The gospel is Christ Jesus who came to us, who is setting first us, and then the world, right with God, who by his Spirit lives in us so we grow in holy purpose, and who one day will transform us into his likeness (1Jo 3.2).

Only a mind and heart based in union with this Christ can be so changed.

Abandon your religion and feed on Christ!