

- 4) Romans 1:7b – *...called saints...* Paul also called the Roman believers *saints*. A _____ is a person who is set apart for God. The believers in Rome were God’s special possessions, chosen for His unique purposes.
- c. Romans 1:7 – Paul desired _____ blessings for the Romans. Romans 1:11-12
- 1) Romans 1:7c – *Grace to you and peace...* In this greeting, Paul gave the Roman believers a two-part blessing. He desired grace and peace to _____ on them. Grace is undeserved kindness and peace is mental tranquility. All saints need these two blessings. Romans 16:20
- 2) Romans 1:7d – *...from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* True grace and peace come only from God the Father and God the Son. Although the Holy Spirit is not mentioned here, He is the one who quietly administers these blessings in the _____ of believers. Romans 8:11, 15:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14

B. Romans 1:8-15 – A heart for the Romans

1. Romans 1:8-10 – Paul _____ for the Christians in Rome.
- a. Romans 1:8 – Paul _____ God for the Christians in Rome.
- 1) Romans 1:8a – _____, *I thank my God...* Paul started his prayer by thanking God.
- 2) Romans 1:8b – *..._____ Jesus Christ...* Jesus is the one who opened the door for believers to be able to approach God in prayer. Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 3:11-12
- 3) Romans 1:8c – *...for you all because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole _____.* Paul was thankful that people far and wide were hearing about the faith of the Roman believers. Romans 16:19, 1 Thessalonians 1:8
- b. Romans 1:9 – Paul _____ continually.
- 1) Romans 1:9a – *For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son...* Paul was passionate about _____ God by preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.
- 2) Romans 1:9b – *For God ...is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you.* Paul called God Himself as a _____ to the fact that he prayed continually for the Roman believers. Paul’s love for them resulted in constant prayer.
- c. Romans 1:10 – Paul prayed with _____.
- 1) Romans 1:10a – *...always in my prayers making request...* Paul had specific prayer _____ for the believers in Rome. Philippians 4:6
- 2) Romans 1:10b – *...if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you...* Paul prayed God would _____ him to finally be able to make a personal visit to them. Romans 15:28-33
2. Romans 1:11-15 – Paul planned to _____ the Roman congregation.
- a. Romans 1:11a – *For I long to _____ you...* Paul greatly desired a face to face visit with the Roman believers. Romans 15:22-24; Philippians 1:8, 4:1

- b. Romans 1:11b – Paul had a specific _____ in mind for his visit. ...*so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established...*
- 1) The *spiritual gift* Paul referred to here should not to be confused with the specific spiritual _____ given by God the Holy Spirit to individual believers at the point of salvation. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 - 2) By *impart some spiritual gift* Paul meant he wanted to be a spiritual blessing to the _____ to help establish them in their faith. Ephesians 1:3, Philippians 1:25
- c. Romans 1:12a – ...*that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you...* Through a face to _____ visit, Paul believed they could mutually encourage each another.
- d. Romans 1:12b – ...*each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.* Paul communicated amazing _____ when he assured the Roman believers that he would be impacted by their faith, just as they would be impacted by his.
- e. Romans 1:13a – *I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far)...* Although Paul had planned numerous _____ to go see them, something always prevented him. Romans 15:22
- 1) We know that at times _____ the Holy Spirit prevented Paul from going one place or another. Acts 16:6-7
 - 2) Other times God allowed _____ to prevent Paul from making a trip. 1 Thessalonians 2:18
 - 3) Now as always, whether it is God or the enemy, all things still work together for _____ *to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28
- f. Romans 1:13b – *so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.* Paul wanted to harvest some _____ in Rome, just as he had done in all the other places where he ministered. This meant he wanted to add believers to the Roman church by means of sharing the good news.
- g. Romans 1:14 – Paul’s wide _____ of responsibility in teaching the gospel included reaching people from all levels of society.
- 1) Romans 1:14a – *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians...* Paul was committed to preaching the gospel to _____ the cultured (the Greeks) and the uncultured (the barbarians).
 - 2) Romans 1:14b – *I am under obligation ...both to the wise and to the foolish.* Paul felt _____ obligated to both the well-educated and the uneducated.
- h. Romans 1:15 – *So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.* Although Paul greatly desired to visit the church in Rome, which included people from a higher social _____ than most churches, he felt a responsibility towards all people, no matter what their station in life.

C. Romans 1:16-17 – A passion for the gospel

1. Romans 1:16 – Paul’s _____ towards the gospel
 - a. Romans 1:16a – *For I am not _____ of the gospel...* Nothing about the gospel message made Paul feel embarrassment, guilt or disgrace. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 9:16-17
 - b. Romans 1:16b – *...for it is the power of God for salvation...* Paul had absolute confidence in the gospel’s ability to _____ sinners. John 3:36
 - c. Romans 1:16c – *...to everyone who _____...* If the gospel is believed, the result is eternal salvation. If it is rejected in disbelief, there is no salvation. Incredibly, every person who believes the gospel instantly passes from death to life. John 5:24
 - d. Romans 1:16d – *...to the Jew first and also to the Greek...* Historically, the gospel was _____ first to the Jewish people and after that to the Gentile nations (Greeks). Though at present Christ is calling out people from among the Gentiles, Israel still holds a place dear to His heart, as we see in Romans 9-11. Acts 1:8
2. Romans 1:17 – Paul’s _____ for the gospel (1 Timothy 1:12-17)
 - a. Romans 1:17a – *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed...* The gospel brought to _____ God’s way of declaring sinners righteous. Job 25:4
 - 1) First of all, God’s righteousness is seen in the historical _____ of the gospel.
 - a) Since the penalty for sin is _____, Christ’s death on the cross for the sins of mankind fulfilled God’s righteous requirements. 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18
 - b) Christ’s resurrection _____ that God’s righteous requirements had been fully satisfied. Romans 4:25, Philippians 2:8-11
 - 2) And now, because God’s righteous requirements were met, God can lawfully declare sinners righteous without any compromise to His _____ standards of justice. Romans 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 2:16-21
 - b. Romans 1:17b – *...from faith to faith...* The gospel affirms that God’s righteousness is obtained only through _____.
 - 1) *...from faith...* Justification, being saved from the penalty of sin, is by faith, or *from faith*. Righteousness before God comes the moment a sinner _____ in Christ.
 - 2) *...to faith...* Similarly, sanctification, being saved from the power of sin, is through faith, or *to faith*. Through ongoing faith in Christ, the believer continues to _____ to live righteously day by day. Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:9
 - c. Romans 1:17c – *...as it is written, “but the righteous man shall live _____ faith.”* Those declared righteous by faith are to likewise live righteously by faith.
 - 1) By citing Habakkuk 2:4b, *“But the righteous will live by his faith,”* Paul highlighted the fact that God has always expected righteous people, even in the Old Testament, to _____ by faith. Hebrews 11:6

- 2) What does the word righteous mean? In Hebrew it is the word TSADDIYQ (pronounced tsad-deek), meaning just or lawful. In Greek the word is DIKAIOS (pronounced dik'-ah-yos), meaning just or blameless, specifically just in the eyes of God or blameless in God's _____.

III. Romans 1:18-3:20 – The Justice of God towards Sinners

A. Romans 1:18-32 – God's judgment of the immoral sinner

1. Romans 1:18-20 – God is right when He condemns immoral sinners because by their rebellious conduct they _____ the truth.
 - a. Romans 1:18 – According to Romans 1:17, the *righteousness of God* is revealed to mankind through the gospel. Conversely, here in Romans 1:18 the _____ of God is revealed from heaven against everything unrighteous.
 - 1) Romans 1:18a – *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven...* From heaven God makes _____ His anger toward sin. Job 36:29-37:5
 - a) God allows all sinners to _____ the destructive consequences of their rebellion. Psalm 69:22, James 1:15
 - b) God also _____ those who die without having believed the gospel to eternal separation from Him in the Lake of Fire. Psalm 7:11
 - 2) Romans 1:18b – *...against all ungodliness...* Ungodliness is rebellion against God. Mankind's ungodliness disregards God's righteous character. Anything that opposes God's character or existence is _____, or not like God, and becomes a suppression of the truth.
 - 3) Romans 1:18c – *against all ... unrighteousness of men...* Unrighteousness is injustice. It particularly involves _____ against fellow humans. Ultimately, all injustice suppresses the truth.
 - 4) Romans 1:18d – *...who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.* In its rebellion, _____ humanity muzzles the truth and invites God's wrath.
 - b. Romans 1:19 – Although in their hearts all people know the truth of God's existence and His righteous character, in their fallen nature, they choose to _____ that truth.
 - 1) Romans 1:19a – *...because that which is known about God is evident within them.* _____ person on earth innately possesses a knowledge of God. God has written a basic knowledge of His existence upon every person's heart. Ecclesiastes 3:11, Acts 14:15-17
 - 2) Romans 1:19b – *...for God made it evident to them...* All civilizations and cultures have a knowledge of God, because God has placed this knowledge into their _____. This is why, generally speaking, most people are religious in some way and readily embrace the existence of some deity. Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 2:14-16