

Romans 1:18-32, **Wrath** revealed.

What aspect of the Christian Gospel do you reckon is the most offensive to people who hear it?

(What is it about that that makes it particularly offensive?)

The first 'revelation' of Romans 1.

Read Romans 1:16-17.

1. What's the first 'revealed' thing that Paul wants to draw attention to?

2. What does it take for us to 'grab hold of' that revealed thing?

The second 'revelation' of Romans 1.

Read Romans 1:18-23.

4. What's the next 'revealed' thing that Paul wants to draw attention to?

5. What's the most offensive thing about our human behavior, according to these verses?

6. Given what we read in these verses, do you feel that people are essentially good, and victims of a system that corrupts their otherwise-good intentions?

7. How has God made it such that things “don't have to be this way”? In other words, in what sense could our predicament be thought of as *our fault*?

Therefore, God did what?

Read Romans 1:24-28.

8. Would you describe the judgment of God at this point as “active” (meaning, God makes things happen in a way that they otherwise would not) or “passive”? (And why?)

9. Fraud is something that can be done over the phone, at a great distance. How far away from our 'selves' are the practices mentioned in v.24-28 situated?

And what does the language of physical proximity (or otherwise) tell you about the effect of sin upon the sinner?

Sundry sins.

Read Romans 1:29-31.

10. It can be easy to look at people who practice dramatic sinfulness, especially 'sins of the body' as described in 24-28, and feel that their sinfulness is particularly offensive. How might this section in 29-31 undermine a sense of self-righteousness?

11. How are we looking as a human race so far?
Who's at fault for the state in which we find ourselves?

Implications.

Read Romans 1:32, 6:23, and 1:16-17.

12. What hope is there for a humanity that has “together turned away and become worthless” (3:10-12) when faced with the righteous 'death sentence' of Rom. 1:32 and 6:23a?

How might this hope for humanity result in humility?
How might this hope for humanity result in worship?
How might this hope for humanity make sharing the Gospel a priority?

Finishing in worship.

Read Romans 3:10-28 as time allows.

As we are confronted with the depths of our depravity (our evilness), thankfully at the same moment we are confronted with the depth of God's love – that when we were yet His enemies, Christ died for *us*.