



## Key References:

**Romans 1:3–5** (NLT) - The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, <sup>4</sup> and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

**Romans 1:16–17a** (NLT) - For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.

**Romans 1:18** (ESV) - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10b** (ESV) - Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Romans 1:21–25** (NLT) - Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. <sup>23</sup> And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup> So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. <sup>25</sup> They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

**Pastoral note:** v26-27 may be challenging topic to discuss! We are prepping a series on biblical sexuality to do later in the year as a significant resource on this topic.

What is most helpful right now: *see where people are at in this area. Do they struggle to understand? What are the questions we all have?* Also, the eldership team is always available to talk to anyone about this. Thanks!

## 1 – THE REASON FOR ROMANS

This Sunday we started a new 16-week series on Romans. **Do you have any favourite scriptures in Romans?** The title of this series is “*God’s Roadmap for Human Redemption.*” **As we engage with culture, why is it a good time for us to refresh our minds with the doctrines of redemption?**

Read Romans 1:3-5. It ends with “so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.” **Of those three fruits which ones need strengthening?** Read Romans 1:14-17. **What reasons from v16-17 show why this is an obligation for Paul?**

## 2 – THE GOOD NEWS & THE WRATH OF GOD

Read Romans 1:18. **How does this verse show us why The Gospel is indeed Good News to all people?** 1 Thessalonians 1:7 says it’s “*Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*” **When sharing the Good News should we include the anger of God? How does minimizing the wrath of God change the meaning / implications of the Good News?**

## 3 – CLAIMING TO BE WISE, WE BECAME FOOLS

Read Romans 1:21-25. Here the issue of worship is brought up as a reason for God’s righteous anger against us. **Why is worship so important to God? How has this been the core human issue since The Fall?**

This section also confronts the foolishness of fallen secular wisdom when compared to God’s Truth. **For humans, that like to puff ourselves up, how is this a hard pill to swallow? What stands out to you most in v21-24?**

Andy said the second half of Romans 1 talks about all Gentiles before they come to Christ, himself included. **Does this lens help as you’ve read along?**

## 4 – AN EXAMPLE OF FALLEN WISDOM

Andy explained that the same-sex sexual practices mentioned in v26-27 were given as an example of the fallen wisdom of v21-25. Without getting into 21<sup>st</sup> century debates on this topic: **how can The Gospel still be good news to all people if v26-27 is true in its literal sense?**

## 5 – GOOD NEWS NEEDS POWER & FAITH

As Andy ended, he challenged us that The Gospel only makes sense with God’s power and our faith (v16-17) and that most arguments watering down the Good News come because we don’t have enough power or faith to still see it as good. **How must we approach the Good News recognising God’s power and ability to transform and restore anyone he wants to? How does faith require us to take a leap that transcends our understanding?**