

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS 16: WHEN GOD GIVES-UP PART 1

THIS is not a “happy” lesson... So much of Scripture presents the compassionate, loving, pursuing heart of God as He has revealed His desire to have ALL humanity present with Him for all Eternity. Yet, His absolute holiness demands that ONLY that which is holy may dwell in His presence. In order for “sinful humanity” to be acceptable they must be “**justified / reconciled / and redeemed.**” AND their sin must be “**propitiated.**” This is what the Bible calls, **SALVATION**. The “key” to receiving this salvation is “**faith – they must BELIEVE.**” These are the lessons of the **LETTER TO THE ROMANS. WE must BELIEVE!**

BUT there are those who do NOT believe. What about them? Will God redeem them anyway? Will He overlook their sin and rejection of His way of salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ?

THAT is the subject of **ROMANS 1:18-32**. This is the fate of those who reject faith and live for themselves. These are the ones identified by the phrase, “**God gave them up.**”

The **ONLY** way for this to be accomplished this is through the operation of “**faith...**” (ROM 1:17)

LONG-SUFFERING IS NOT ENDLESS...

Patience and **Long-suffering** are NOT the same. Both are present in the character of **GOD...** and are by the **HOLY SPIRIT’S** presence in the redeemed the “**fruit**” of our new creation in **CHRIST**.

Patience – “**Hupomone**” – *to abide under the pressure, to endure, to continue when under assault...*

Long-suffering – “**Makrothumia**” – *to be LONG to ANGER – to not react, but to give time for the offending party to repent / change / be removed.*

But just as Jesus spoke of forgiving “**70 x’s 7**” there is an **END**.

And there is an END to God’s “putting-off His anger” against those who “offend His Absolute Holy Character and Ways. This may come as a sudden and “*awe-full*” execution of His Judgment (**THE FLOOD**), or as His release of blessing, help, sustenance, protection, etc. in the “temporal period” UNTIL He executes Judgment at an appointed time (*as happened at THE FALL*).

GEN 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” [Lit: “*dying (spiritually), you will die (eternally).*”]*

God speaks of this “**pending judgment**” often:

JOHN 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son HAS Everlasting Life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

2 PETER 3:9-10 *The LORD is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is **patient** [makrothumeo] toward you, **not wishing** [“willing” – making a plan that reveals His desire] that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

¹⁰ *But the DAY OF THE LORD **will come** like a thief, and **then** the heavens **will pass away** with a roar, and the heavenly bodies **will be burned up** and **dissolved**, and the earth and the works that are done on it **will be exposed**.*

ACTS 17:29-31 *Being then GOD'S offspring, we ought not to think that the “DIVINE BEING” is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The **times of ignorance** GOD **overlooked**, but NOW **HE commands all people everywhere to repent**, ³¹ because **HE has fixed a day on which he will judge the world** in righteousness **by a man whom HE has appointed**; and of this HE has given assurance to all by raising HIM from the dead.”*

ROMANS 16: WHEN GOD GIVES-UP PART 2

GOD'S WRATH REVEALED...

*The wrath of God is revealed. Not in the Gospel (in which the ‘righteousness of God’ is revealed) but in the **facts of human experience**: ‘the history of the world is the judgment of the world’ (J. C. F. Schiller).*

What we see in these verses is the “**Devolution**” of mankind and of the earth Adam doomed to chaos. Contrary to the “**THEORY of Evolution**” when left to itself, **ALL energy tends toward decay**. ONLY thru the action of an outside force can things be made “**better**” – improved.

The “**revelation of God's Righteous activity as presented by the Gospel**” (outside influence) [ROM 1:17] shows that **ONLY by His activity can humanity be brought back to the “right-standing” that was lost through the sin of Adam.**

On the other hand, the very “**devolution of life, society, culture... humanity**” reveals the “**wrath**” of God. It is NOT a “**sudden outburst of anger**” [Grk: “Thumos”] but a long proclaimed and certain judgment that WILL come – a “**pending doom.**” [Grk: “Orge”]

ROM 1:18-32

This is the most descriptive and organized presentation of the “**state**” of humanity in relationship to God's Holy demands. It CLEARLY presents not only **the condition of fallen mankind**, and their progress of “**devolution**”, but it also reveals that God's “**giving them up...**” was as a response to their actions... **NOT His desire, decision, or decree.** **The Sovereign God allows mankind to MAKE the choice regarding eternal destiny...**

IRREVERENCE

¹⁸ *For the wrath of GOD is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness **OF MEN**, who by **THEIR** unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about GOD is plain to **THEM**, because **GOD has shown it to THEM.** ²⁰ For HIS invisible attributes, namely, HIS eternal power and divine*

nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So, THEY are without excuse.**

IGNORANCE

²¹ For although **THEY** knew **GOD**, **THEY** did not honor him as **GOD** or give thanks to him, but **THEY** became futile in **THEIR** thinking, and **THEIR** foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, **THEY** became fools, ²³ and **exchanged** the glory of the immortal **GOD** for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

INDULGENCE

²⁴ Therefore **GOD gave THEM up** in the lusts of **THEIR** hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of **THEIR** bodies among **THEMSELVES,** ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about **GOD** for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the **CREATOR, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

²⁶ For this reason **GOD gave THEM up to dishonorable passions.**

For **THEIR WOMEN** exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and **THE MEN** likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion **FOR ONE ANOTHER,** men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

IMPENITENCE

²⁸ And since **THEY** did not see fit to acknowledge **GOD,** **GOD gave THEM up** to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ **THEY** were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. **THEY** are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. **THEY** are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of **GOD,** insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though **THEY** know **GOD'S** righteous decree that **THOSE** who practice such things deserve to die, **THEY** not only do them but give approval to **THOSE** who practice them.

So GOD GAVE THEM UP...

There are a number of incredibly sad verses in the Bible... This is ONE of them. It is heart-breaking to realize that God does ALL He can, but in God's Sovereignty He has given them the "power" to make a decision that "over rules" God's desire.

God give us hearts of passion... and WORDS to speak...