



# ROMANS

Being a Christian instead  
of being Religious

## 3. The need for a Rescuer Romans 1:18-32

### 1. The need for Good news about righteousness - v18

- v17,18 – “a righteousness from God is being revealed... for the wrath of God is being revealed”
- To get why the gospel is good news, we need to understand the bad news
- Yet God’s wrath flows out of his love and delight in his creation

### 2. The Grim Exchange v19-32

- 3 grim exchanges show that man is a mess in need of rescue - v23,25,26

#### a. Reality for Fiction - “suppress truth... exchange truth of God for a lie”

- Creation & Conscience speak to all people about existence of God
- The God of the Bible means we are dependant, accountable and guilty
- So we leave God out, or remake him creating our own version of reality

#### Consequences

- v21,28 – living in fiction leads to inability to see/think clearly

#### b. The Living God for Lifeless idols - “exchanged the immortal God for images”

- We all worship something – look to someone/thing to give us esteem, purpose, acceptance, happiness, hope, forgiveness, control
- Only the glorious living God can provide all these

#### Consequences

- When we fail our ‘idols’, they make us feel worse, with no forgiveness
- v24: We become less human – blind & deaf to other concerns/people
- v24: We become enslaved – our desires drive us to destruction

#### c. Glory for Shame - “exchanged natural for unnatural”

- Paul gives a grim description of a ‘Shameless’ culture
- Both sexual relationships & social relationships are harmed
- Both deeply destructive and hurtful – not what we were made for
- v32 delighting in wrong, and in urging others to do it

#### Consequences

- v27 – shameful behaviour brings its own problems
- v28 – we become victims of our own shameless thinking

### 3. The Glorious Exchange

- How does God react? 2 aspects
  - a. He lets people see consequences - “Then God gave them over”
  - b. He performs his own glorious exchange (ch 3:21-26, also 2 Cor 5:21)
    - On the cross – Jesus bears the wrath - ‘given over’ to death for us
    - Living God became lifeless so we who deserved death could live
    - Resurrection confirms the glorious exchange: Glory⇒shame⇒glory. All who trust in Jesus’ exchange will find themselves raised to glory

# Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 12th April 09

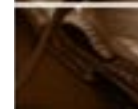
## Notices

- |                      |  |     |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| Sun                  | Evening service at Mark & Judith’s<br>Sermon study on this morning’s sermon  | 8pm |
| Wed                  | No midweek this week   |     |
| Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Prayer time for Donegal - in Letterkenny   | 8pm |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> | Presbytery Youth event - Climbing Muckish (not only for young people)<br>Meeting at southern end (at shrine) at 1.30<br>Bring coat, appropriate footwear, and food |     |

Camp Application forms available - Remember the church pays half of the cost

- Boys’ Discovery Camp - 10-12yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Armagh)
- Girls’ Discovery Camp - 10-12yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Coleraine)
- Boys’ Adventure Camp - 13-15yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Larne)
- Girls’ Adventure Camp - 13-15yrs - 18th-25th July - (Armagh)
- Senior Camp - 16+yrs - 4th-11th July - (Armagh)

## Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don’t need to know anything about the Bible
- You won’t be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you’re interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 19th - Romans 2:1-16

Opening Psalm: 78A:25-27

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