

# CONTENDING FOR THE ORIGINAL TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

## *Not Some Modern Man-Made Thing That Messes with the Mind*

(Part 1 of 3)

Thinking is hard. Often it hurts, which explains why most folks don't do it. It is easier to watch TV. It is easier to join a political party and leave it to Donald or some other person to do the thinking. It is easier to go to a church and get a dose of feel good platitudes. As one man in Texas said to me, "*Just check your brains in at the door.*" "*No thanks,*" I replied.

The GOSPEL IS EVERYTHING, and it's not just about music. It's not about us. It's not about prosperity. It's not about talking in tongues. It's about God, and IT'S BEST EXPLAINED IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS by Paul. Romans is the least read book, in the least read book the Bible. But I now plan to explain it. With God's help, "Lord, have mercy, and open our eyes." Grant us a revelation such as Paul had. This may to some be MISSION IMPOSSIBLE but there are some left who actually want to be saved, which is very easy, yet very hard. ALL WILL BE MADE PLAIN AS WE GO ALONG. So here is my leap of faith.

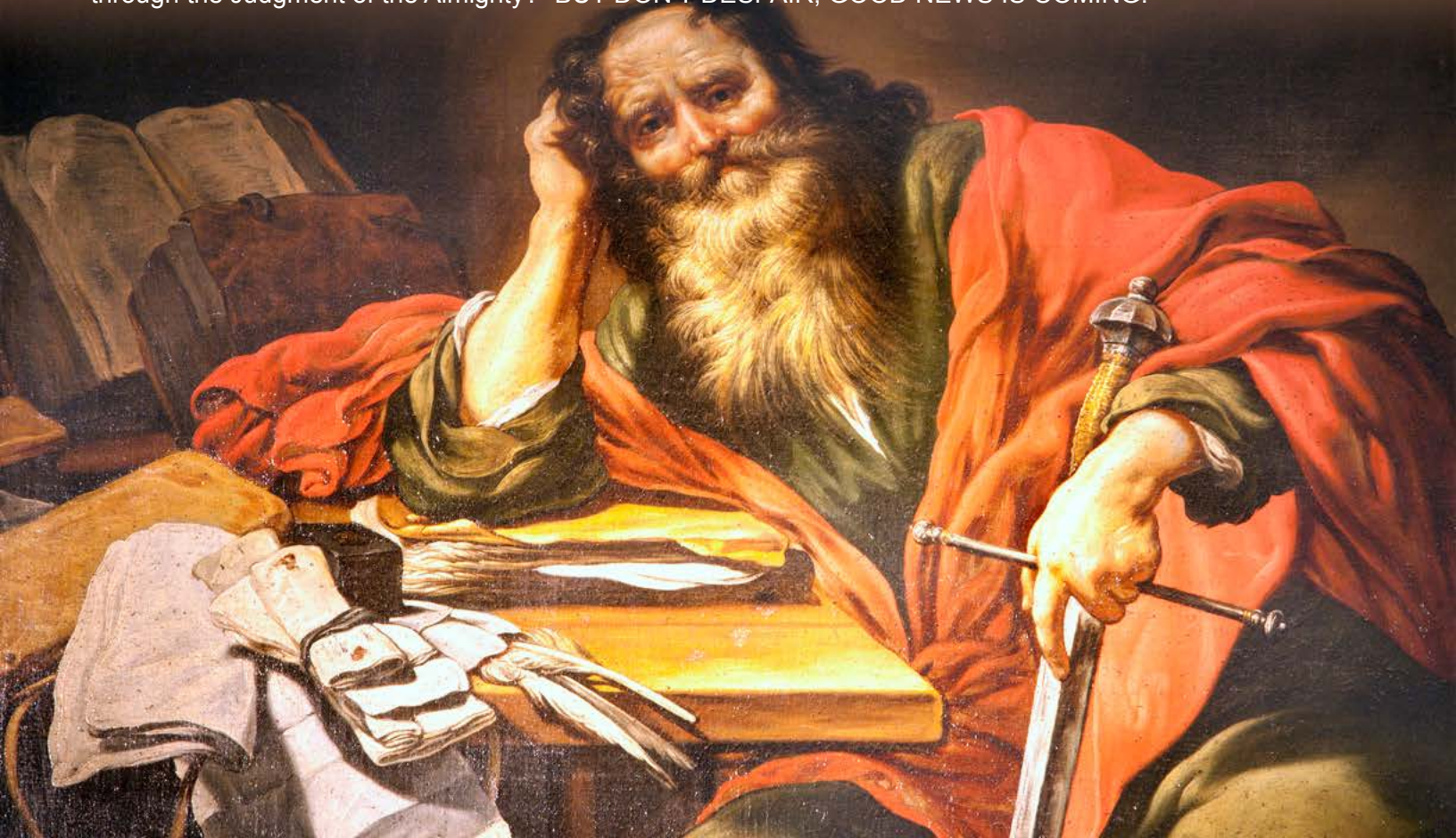
### — ROMANS CHAPTER ONE —

**THEME:** The Pagan world of the ancient Romans is lost and under the wrath of Almighty God. Our society is the old Rome dressed up to look cute. It's on its way to hell, which is real.

- **Read Romans 1:18–32**

God has wrath. He doesn't get mad. He's not bad-tempered. He's totally holy, righteous, and good. He hates sin. GOD IS THE RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY CREATOR AND HE WILL ACT JUSTLY IN HARMONY WITH HIS TOTAL HOLINESS. Read the catalog of SINS. Big sexual sins get a mention. Surprise! Surprise! God is not your teddy bear.

**LESSON:** Exposed is the lie that everyone goes to Heaven which is reserved for the totally righteous. HOW DO I GET RIGHTEOUS is the number one question. Most folks get it wrong. The ROMAN WORLD IS NOW. Look no farther than the end of your nose. Rather look at yourself and ask, "Am I good enough to breeze through the Judgment of the Almighty?" BUT DON'T DESPAIR; GOOD NEWS IS COMING.





## — ROMANS CHAPTER TWO —

**THEME:** The religious world is lost.

- **Read Romans 2:17–29**

The most religious people were the Jews, and they got it wrong. They messed up so badly that they murdered God's Son, who was sent to save them. They had a big shining temple, choirs, robes, trumpets, an army of priests, and the Ten Commandments. They thought you got righteous by doing good things. They came under the wrath of God, and their temple was burned up. They were scattered around the world. GOD IS IMPARTIAL AND CANNOT BE BRIBED.

**LESSON:** YOU DON'T GET SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ENOUGH GOOD WORKS, AND ALL OUR BEST EFFORTS ARE IMPOSSIBLY INADEQUATE. SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE ARE THE WORST OF THE BUNCH, BUT DON'T KNOW IT. SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE CAN DO TERRIBLE SINS WHILE FEELING GOOD ABOUT IT. Check out the Inquisition that was run by priests.



## — ROMANS CHAPTER THREE —

**THEME:** The whole world, religious and irreligious, is on the way to Hell. But they are blinded by the ignorance of their sinful hearts. What hope is there? THE GOOD NEWS IS REVEALED, and it's not what most people believe. Even super-religious people usually get it wrong. Is it a wonder that the people of Paul's time beat him up, threw him in prison, and finally chopped off his head? Being a true Christian can be dangerous.

- **Read Romans 3:9,10**

There are no righteous people. The non-churched are on their way to hell. Many of the churchd are going with them.

- **Read Romans 3:19–26** (TRY READING THE MESSAGE BIBLE. EASY TO READ. Go online)

Every one of us has messed up. We all deserve hell. Religious and non-religious people are under the wrath of God. There are no excuses. THAT'S THE BAD NEWS. BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS.

GOD IN JESUS BECAME A BABY. HE BECAME A CHILD, TEENAGER, AND ADULT. HE WAS TOTALLY SINLESS, UNLIKE YOU AND ME, WHO ARE TOTALLY SINFUL. **HE BECAME OUR SUBSTITUTE AND BORE OUR SINS ON THE CROSS. IF WE TRULY BELIEVE IN HIM, TRUST HIM AS OUR SAVIOR, AND REPENT OF OUR SINS, HE WILL GIVE US THE GIFT OF HIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS. THIS IS CALLED JUSTIFICATION. THIS MEANS GOD FOR JESUS'S SAKE DECLARES THAT WE ARE TOTALLY RIGHTEOUS.** WE CAN DO NOTHING EXCEPT ACCEPT THE GIFT. READ AGAIN, ROMANS 3:22–26. This Gospel is not good advice; it is good news. It is good news about God and His mercy and grace. It is difficult to believe. But faith also is His gift.





## — WARNING AND EXPLANATION —

Have you ever heard of the Jesuits and the Counsel of Trent? They had a mission, and that was to destroy the Protestant Reformation. They taught that JUSTIFICATION was the work of the Spirit to make us righteous. This was the doctrine at the Counsel of Trent. They taught that justification was the work of God within us to make us holy. Since no one became good enough (100% righteous), the Catholic Church created a place called purgatory where sins were burned away. Sometimes it could take a million years. Mother Teresa was taught by the Jesuits. She was always in a state of insecurity. Letters made available after her death revealed her fear of God and her desire to give up everything, including God. IT WAS TOO HARD. She did not understand the true Gospel. She died, fearing the fire. JUSTIFICATION IS AN INSTANTANEOUS GIFT, IT IS NOT A PROCESS.

## — COMMENT —

I have known many churchgoers who had no joy, assurance, or peace. They were Perfectionists and Legalists. They were a pain to themselves and to others. Their problem was UNBELIEF. They did not believe the words of Romans. I knew two young people who came under the influence of Sinless Perfectionists who confused and poisoned them. They both committed suicide. So this is not an academic matter. Souls are at stake.

PERFECTIONISM DOES ONE OF TWO THING: IT EITHER MAKES PEOPLE VERY DEPRESSED LIKE MOTHER TERESA, OR IT MAKES PEOPLE VERY SELF RIGHTEOUS LIKE THE PHARISEES.

## — EXTRA COMMENT —

What about holiness and good works? Read Romans 3:31. As soon as a sinner comes to Jesus, God works in him to change his life. The person with a dirty mind becomes pure. The proud person becomes humble. The sour person becomes sweet. The impatient person becomes patient. The critical person becomes kind. But none of this is the basis or merit for salvation. Christ dying for our sins is our blessed assurance, not our goodness.

So Luther could say: ***A CHRISTIAN IS ALWAYS A SINNER, ALWAYS A PENITENT, ALWAYS RIGHT WITH GOD.***

Think about it. Was Luther right? Read the sacred texts again. This is the original Faith once delivered to the Saints. **BELIEVE AND YOU WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD.**

